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IDF to chart electricity system in S. Lebanon in wake of accident that killed two soldiers

ALON PINKAS

IDF and the Israel Electric Corporation will begin mapping out the electrical system in southern Lebanon and will move potentially dangerous cables and pylons, to prevent fatal accidents like the one that killed two soldiers Sunday from occurring.

On Sunday, two Golani Brigade soldiers were killed and another three were injured, one seriously, when a soldier standing on top of an armored personnel carrier touched an electric wire, causing immediate electrification of the vehicle, and the electrocution of the other soldiers, who tried to help him.

The two dead soldiers, Cpl. Eran Hudeida, 19, of Holon and Cpl. Avikam Hoffman, 19, of Jerusalem, were buried yesterday in their hometowns.

The accident was the fourth of its kind this year. Two months ago an IDF soldier, Chen Kizari, was electrocuted when a communications antenna he was carrying hit an electricity cable in Lebanon. Two other non-fatal incidents occurred earlier in the year.

At about 6:45 Sunday evening, the vehicle, an M-113 APC, was en route to refuel. As it passed near the village of Markaba, Hoffman touched a high-voltage cable, which was apparently loose, and was killed instantly. Hudeida tried to assist him, but was also electrocuted and killed by the contact. The three injured soldiers in the carrier were flown by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

IEC engineers yesterday moved the loose cable, which they found was hanging low and exposed. They also moved several electricity poles away from the road.

Sunday's accident occurred while the APC was on patrol in the central sector of the security zone. Army



Comrades mourn at the funeral of Corporal Eran Hudeida in Holon yesterday.

Investigators yesterday said that the accident was a combination of bad luck and lack of attention on the soldiers' part.

"Unlike in other countries, where they are either very high or buried underground, electric cables in Lebanon are very low. Soldiers must show more awareness of this," said one of the investigators.

Another army source yesterday called the accident "A horrible tragedy that should not have happened."

He added the possibility of recklessness would be investigated, but that so far there was no evidence of it.

Soldier killed, one wounded in missile bombardment

ALON PINKAS

AN IDF soldier, Staff Sgt. Avichai Shmaya Danoch, 19, was killed yesterday morning and another soldier lightly wounded when a Sagger anti-tank missile hit their outpost near Reihan, in the northeastern tip of the security zone in south Lebanon.

Danoch will be buried this afternoon in Ashkelon.

Responding to the attack, IDF and South Lebanese Army artillery pounded Hizbullah targets north of the zone, and air force jets attacked strongholds north of Sijut in Jabal Al-Rafiyah and Jabal Tsaffi.

It was the second time in two days that the Golani Brigade suffered fatalities. On Sunday, two Golani soldiers were fatally electrocuted in an accident.

Yesterday's casualties were from the brigade's anti-armor company, which is currently deployed on the Sijut ridge, in the eastern sector of the security zone.

The hostilities began at approximately 10:30 yesterday morning, when IDF and SLA outposts along the Sijut ridge, Reihan and Ali-Taher areas were bombed by Sagger missiles, mortar and machine gun fire.

At total of eight outposts were attacked, in what the army said was the fiercest Hizbullah attack in more than eight months.

The IDF responded with massive artillery and tank fire, and later with air force strikes on the areas from which the attack originated.

At about noon, one of the Hizbullah missiles hit an IDF post near Reihan, where Danoch was killed and another soldier wounded. The wounded soldier was brought by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Danoch's father said he had pleaded with his son not to return to Lebanon, since he had been ill following



Staff Sgt. Avichai Shmaya Danoch (left) and his father, Avichai Shmaya, at a family gathering in Ashkelon.

Dental surgery. But he said his son insisted that he wanted to go back and be with his friends, who were about to go to Lebanon.

When news of the soldier's death arrived, friends and neighbors gathered at the family home in the Givat Zion neighborhood of Ashkelon.

Hizbullah took responsibility for the attack.

A communique by the group said a "commando unit from our special forces" stormed the Israeli army barracks in Reihan at 11:25 a.m., inflicting "dozens of enemy casualties."

However, the IDF denied a commando raid ever took place, and further denied that four Merkava tanks and other military equipment were destroyed, as the communique claimed.

Lebanese security sources reported that "guerrillas sneaked to within close range of Sijut, Ghizlan and Arama and blasted the triangle on the edge of the zone's eastern sector with rocket-propelled grenades," according to news agencies.

The sources added that two bar-

Angry Rabin stalks out of plenum

No-confidence motions beaten easily after heated debate.

DAN IZENBERG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin stalked out of the plenum yesterday when Likud Party Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu accused him of "hooliganism" for the language he used on Sunday in attacking right-wing protesters.

Rabin's act was the highlight of a long Knesset day which focused on the demonstrations and their aftermath and featured bitter attacks on one another by the opposition and coalition and internal clashes within Labor and the Likud.

The government easily turned back no-confidence motions by the Likud (56 to 47), the NRP (56-46) and Tsomet (56-48).

However, the debate was one of the most acrimonious of this Knesset

and clearly indicated that the accusations and counter-accusations of the past few days have taken a heavy toll on the political climate.

Rabin refused to reply to the no-confidence motions and sent Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shalut to the podium in his place, even though - in an unprecedented and demonstrative act - he sat in the chamber throughout his emissary's speech.

"I don't have to reply even in the Knesset to anyone who provides a roof for people who call me 'traitor' and 'killer' and fails to condemn them, even if he does not say these things himself," Rabin said at a Labor faction meeting minutes before

the no-confidence debate began.

In his speech, Netanyahu castigated Rabin for referring to the extreme right and Hamas as jointly seeking to sabotage the peace process.

"I heard the prime minister's statements yesterday at the Labor Party central committee," said Netanyahu. "He said a wicked partnership had been formed between the killers of Hamas and the Israeli right. I don't remember any prime minister ever saying such shocking things."

Netanyahu's words were drowned out by the shouts of enraged Labor MKs, including deputy defense minister Mordechai Gur, who rarely heckles or interrupts speakers.

Netanyahu: "The prime minister compared half the nation, perhaps more than half, loyal citizens, lovers of Israel and the Land of Israel, a community which includes some of the most outstanding IDF commanders, some of the best fighters in elite units."

Gur (bitterly referring to the name-calling against Rabin): "Some of the traitors..."

Netanyahu: "The prime minister compared this population to the organization of killers. He apparently..."

Gur: "Where does he get off talking about IDF heroes? Where does he get the nerve?"

Netanyahu continued his attack.

"There is one kind of hooliganism (Continued on Page 2)

Arafat visits Jericho today

JON IMMANUEL and BILL HUTMAN

LEADER Yasser Arafat comes to Jericho today, and right-wing demonstrators plan to disrupt the festivities.

Settlers blocked the Jerusalem-Jericho road last night, in what their leaders warned was only the start of an operation aimed at torpedoing Arafat's reception today in Jericho.

Hundreds of Palestinians on their way to Jericho were left stranded by the closure of the road, witnesses said. Israel Radio reported the Palestinians refused army requests to take an alternate route.

Dozens of residents of Meshor Adumim and surrounding Jewish settlements set fire to tires on the road at about 9 p.m. By late last night, they had refused army and police demands to disperse.

Settler spokesman Aharon Domb said the road-blocking was a "spontaneous act." This morning, the organized effort to block roads leading to Jericho is officially scheduled to start, he said. (See story, Page 2.)

The two main events planned for Arafat's arrival are a speech in a public square and the swearing-in of the Palestinian Authority in al-Aksa police barracks.

Arafat's address will be of particular interest, as his Gaza "homecoming" speech disappointed many Palestinians who thought it was too vague, failing to spell out - apart from the release of prisoners - what Palestinians can achieve economically and politically.

The pro-Jordan daily *An-Nahar* said Arafat's Gaza speech was watered down by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, with whom Arafat conferred before arriving in Gaza. Mubarak feared it would enrage the Israeli right and embarrass

Shaath: Arafat will make his home in Gaza

JON IMMANUEL and LAMIA LAHOUD

PLO LEADER Yasser Arafat will be returning to Gaza on Saturday and making his home there, his adviser Nabil Shaath said yesterday.

Until now it was assumed that Arafat would live in Jericho to reinforce Palestinian insistence that the city be the first step toward full Palestinian control over all territories across the Green Line and not just the Gaza Strip.

"Gaza is the reality, Jericho is the symbol," Shaath explained. "He will be back after his trip to Paris for good."

Arafat is expected to return from Jericho to Gaza today and then leave for El-Arish and catch a flight to Paris, where he is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for a UNESCO peace award.

Shaath said Arafat would have returned immediately but planned to stop in Tunisia for a farewell party arranged by the government there.

Hassan Assour, a delegate to the autonomy talks, said it was proper for Arafat to be based in Gaza, since it is the population center of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

Assour added that the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip, as opposed to Jericho, already has a well-functioning civilian administration.

"Here we have trained personnel from the Israeli civil administration who can run civilian affairs, while in

Jericho we did not inherit a well-functioning civil administration and lack personnel," Assour said.

In addition, Assour noted that Jericho may attract trouble, because Israel released prisoners under the condition that they stay in Jericho.

These prisoners have life sentences, and many have been accused of killing fellow Palestinians.

Opposition groups have vowed to use the prisoners' issue to protest against the peace accords during Arafat's visit.

Former chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) and co-chairman of the Security Liaison committee, Abdel Razak Yahya, said security was better in Gaza than in Jericho, since the police force there was well organized.

"In Gaza we have managed to keep unauthorized arms off the streets," he said. "We have checkpoints everywhere, and the police looks for weapons. If the police officers find any civilians carrying arms, they will take their weapons away from them."

Despite Hamas' influence in the Gaza Strip, Yahya said the situation is calm.

"People are under shock," he said. "They don't want to lose their newly-found freedom. Even those who do not support the peace agreement profit from the situation and therefore keep quiet."

Rabin at helm in Oslo talks' critical period

'Post' diplomatic correspondent completes study of decision-making

Jerusalem Post Staff

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres circumvented Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the start of the secret Oslo peace talks with the PLO, but contrary to public perception, it was the premier and not Peres who headed negotiations during the final three critical months leading up to the Oslo breakthrough last August, a forthcoming study says.

The above is a conclusion based on David Makovsky's forthcoming 160-page study on Israeli decision-making during the secret Oslo talks, which will be published next month by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The study is based on more than 70 interviews with Israeli, Palestinian, Norwegian, and US sources. Makovsky serves as the diplomatic correspondent of *The Jerusalem Post*.

Until late May, 1993, when the talks were upgraded from an academic to an official level, Rabin received only reports about their progress. Thereafter, the prime minister personally guided the talks as they become more intense.

However, as far back as March, 1993, Rabin had already told US Secretary of State Warren Christopher that without PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Washington talks with local Palestinians would yield no results.

While Rabin fashioned no grand design leading down the road to Oslo, the study says he was ripe for such talks due to the failure of Washington talks, the rise of Hamas, and a belief that Israel needed to reach agreements with neighboring countries in order to deal with rising threats from Iran and Iraq.

However, some key elements of the Oslo channel were put in motion without Rabin's authorization.

On November 16, 1992, two months before the first round of talks were even held in Oslo, Peres told Egyptian leaders during a visit to Cairo to sound out to the PLO if the group would give its blessing to a "Gaza Plus" approach.

Specifically, Peres said Israel would yield Gaza plus either Jericho or Jenin to local Palestinians.

In other words, the idea of Jericho emanated from Jerusalem, not Tunis. However, Peres's feelings went nowhere, because there was no official role for the PLO.

In February, 1993, shortly after the Hamas expulsions triggered a Palestinian boycott of Washington talks, Peres went to Christopher with an idea to break the deadlock. Peres said Jerusalemite Palestinian activist Faisal Husseini should be brought into the talks. However, Peres said the only way Rabin would agree to such a proposal would be if it was put forward as an American proposal. Indeed, during a Rabin-Christopher meeting during the following month, the secretary of state put forward the idea, and Rabin accepted it.

The third known circumvention came during March.

During a meeting with Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny before the diplomat headed back for routine consultations to Cairo, Peres asked that feelers be put out to determine whether Arafat and the PLO would be interested in assuming control of Gaza and Jericho.

Indeed, not only was the message conveyed to Arafat, but the PLO leader wanted to convey his assent as directly as possible to Rabin. The premier

had a planned summit meeting in Ismailia with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on April 14, 1994. Much to Rabin's surprise, Egyptian presidential adviser Osama el-Baz took out of his briefcase a letter and map from Arafat saying he agreed to take control of Gaza and Jericho. Rabin was intrigued by the fact it was the first direct communication he had received from Arafat about accepting an interim deal, but at the same time, he was very upset that he had not heard about Jericho in the Oslo channel.

Shortly thereafter, Israel upgraded the talks to an official level. However, Rabin remained uncertain about the negotiations' likelihood for success. Just two weeks before the agreement was initiated, Christopher asked Rabin whether he believed the secret talks in Oslo would succeed. Using a hand motion, Rabin dismissed the idea. The interaction marked the first time that the US would even inquire about Oslo at the highest levels.

Rabin's lack of certainty about Oslo's success came during a crisis in those talks. While negotiations in Oslo were on a verge of a breakthrough in early July, a crisis then ensued when the PLO introduced 26 new amendments. The deadlock was broken in early August through a combination of forces: Israel's willingness to put the idea of mutual recognition with the PLO on the table, Palestinian fear that Israel would move ahead with Syria due to the Christopher trip to Damascus, and finally, as a result of a back-channel communication between Rabin and Arafat by way of the PLO leader's Israeli Arab adviser Ahmed Tibi.

The breakthrough was only finalized two weeks later.

Remarks by both the president and the finance minister about the economy's good health failed to calm investors' nerves and they continued to mull for the exits.

The market fell through 150, a level it has not seen for more than two years. The Two-Sided index of leading shares fell by 3.4% to 148.01 while the narrower Maad index fell by 2.75% to 153.3. Bank shares were particularly hard hit following the Supervisor of Banks' comments about the impact on banks' profitability of the stock market's plunge.

Turnover, which has generally been low during the market's recent

Shohat remarks fail to prevent further stocks fall

NEIL COHEN

STOCKS on the TASE continued their downward spiral yesterday, following Thursday's and yesterday's sharp falls.


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Turnover, which has generally been low during the market's recent

falls, jumped to NIS 228 million. The main factor behind the market's fall was continued heavy mutual fund redemptions which were estimated at well over NIS 100 million and may have been considerably higher. Provident funds and portfolio managers bought in, taking the view that the stocks are now looking cheap and the bottom may now be in sight, but they failed to stem the tide.




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Demonstrators plan to keep Palestinians from visiting Jericho

HERB KEINON

DEMONSTRATORS are planning to block a number of roads in Judea and Samaria today in an attempt to keep tens of thousands of Palestinians from visiting Jericho to see PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during his scheduled visit.

"We are working from the premise that Arafat should be brought here in chains as a war criminal," said Yechiel Leiter, a spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. "He should not be welcomed here as some kind of homecoming queen by throngs of people who support his terrorist path."

Leiter said it is absurd that the IDF, which throughout the intifada has been trying to keep the roads safe, will protect the roads from those who threw rocks and now want to catch a glimpse of the man who gave them their directives.

The council wrote a leaflet in Arabic to be distributed to Palestinians caught in what it hoped will be massive traffic jams caused by the blocked roads.

"You are going to celebrate the arrival of Arafat, and we are delaying you so you have food for thought," the leaflet reads. "You have chosen for your president a professional murderer, someone whose nature it is to kill women and children, both Jews and Arabs."

The leaflet closes with the words, "Arafat is deluding you into thinking that the Jewish settlements will disappear from the horizon. Get it through your heads that you won't see that day."

IDF sources, meanwhile, said the army will

not allow demonstrators to block the road like they did Friday morning on the Jericho-Jerusalem highway.

Large reinforcements have been brought into the territories to keep the roads open. An IDF squadron yesterday morning set up camp in the settlement of Mitze Yericho, but had to withdraw after Jerry Boaz, the settlement's chief security officer, lodged a complaint.

The troops then set up camp outside the settlement.

Boaz said the troops drove unannounced into the settlement at 7 a.m., and set up the encampment. He said the settlement's heads would not have minded if they had been forewarned, but the way this was done gave the impression "that the troops were here to keep us from demonstrating."

Boaz said when he talked to the officers in charge, he was told they were there for "three to four days" to protect the settlement. This is not logical, Boaz said, because the squadron was brought in from another region, and was under the command of an officer who told local settlement leaders he would not permit a recurrence of the type of demonstrations that took place on the road on Friday.

During those demonstrations, tires were burned, concrete poured and nails laid on the road to stop traffic.

An IDF spokesman declined comment on the matter, saying the army does not talk about troop movements, or the reason for them.

Meanwhile, some 30 residents of Jordan Valley settlements will be manning a "command center" throughout the day in Na'ama, north of Jericho, to make sure Arafat does not drive on Route 90 past the settlement to visit Ouja, which is in the Palestinian autonomous zone.

"If we have enough prior warning that he plans to leave Jericho and drive to Ouja, we will mobilize hundreds of people from the region to block the road," said David Elhayan, head of the Jordan Valley Settlements Committee. "If we hear only at the last minute, those of us in Na'ama will go to the street and stop him from passing ourselves, even if it means blocking the road with our bodies."

Elhayan said if Arafat leaves Jericho and drives on the highway with armed Palestinian police it would be a violation of the accords with the PLO, and "would be as if he was driving through the center of Tel Aviv. I don't imagine residents there would allow him and his entourage to drive through their neighborhoods either."

In a related development, the Jerusalem police yesterday released 34 of the 44 protesters arrested near the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday, and said some of them may be charged with unlawful demonstration and hitting policemen.

At the same time, B'tzedek - a legal organization monitoring police behavior at the demonstrations - said it is in the process of gathering evidence to press charges against some policemen for "brutal behavior" at Sunday's protest.

Court expected to rule on anti-Olmert petition today

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice is expected to rule today on a petition asking it to forbid Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and his deputies from assisting anti-Arafat demonstrations, despite the fact that the petitioners agreed to withdraw the petition yesterday.

The petitioners - CRM executive committee member Moshe Raz and Jerusalem city councilwoman Anat Hoffman (Meretz) - made their decision during yesterday's hearing, after Justices Meir Shamgar, Eliezer Goldberg and Mishael Cheshin indicated they were satisfied with the city's response, and were therefore likely to throw the petition out.

However, the court said it would rule on the petition anyway after Olmert's lawyer, by objecting to the statement with which the petitioners accompanied their notice of withdrawal, indicated that the city's response might not include any promises for the future.

In their affidavit to the court, Olmert and his deputies denied the petitioners' allegations that they had used city funds to buy newspaper ads calling on people to participate in the anti-Arafat demonstrations, or for any other "political" activity.

While it is true that the city is supplying water and electricity to

the demonstrators camping out opposite the Prime Minister's Office, this is necessary for humanitarian reasons, the affidavit continued, and the city would do as much for demonstrators of any political persuasion.

At first, the petitioners' lawyer, Avraham Gal, said this response was insufficient.

"It's enough that the leading officials of the municipality... have bound themselves to a political battle which is dividing the public [to make their activities illegal]," he said, arguing that if the court did not take a stand now, every municipality would soon become a "logistical base" for a different political party.

However, Goldberg and Shamgar were clearly impatient with this argument, indicating that they found Olmert's affidavit to be satisfactory.

"So the respondents aren't willing to think like the petitioners," said Goldberg towards the end of the lengthy hearing. "Do you want to force your views on them?"

Gal therefore said due to the court's stand, he would withdraw the petition, but asked that a statement of his reasons for doing so be written in the protocol.

These reasons included Olmert's assurance that assistance to the demonstrators would be given only on "humanitarian considerations," his promise that "the public purse will not be used to advance the political struggle," where "public purse" includes use of the city's employees, buildings and equipment, and his promise that "in the future, the city will not support any activity that does not stay strictly within the bounds of the law," Gal said.

However, Olmert's attorney, Shlomit Rubini, said she objected to this declaration - despite the fact, as Cheshin pointed out, that Gal's statements were based only on what she had said in court.

Gal's declaration, she insisted, was different in every way from Olmert's affidavit. For instance, she said, the affidavit only talked about the recent round of demonstrations - it did not make blanket promises for the future.

She therefore asked that the court either throw the petition out or, eliminate Gal's declaration from the protocol.

Seeing that there was no agreement between the two sides, the justices said they would rule on the petition despite the withdrawal, and added they would try to do so today.



OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran visits Hanna Sakuri at Beilinson Hospital yesterday. Sakuri and her husband, Yoram, were stabbed in a terror attack in their Kiryat Netafim home on Friday. (IDF Spokesman)

Jerusalem city council defeats no-confidence motion against Olmert

BILL HUTMAN

THE opposition in the Jerusalem city council took the rare step last night of submitting a no-confidence motion against Mayor Ehud Olmert over the anti-Arafat riots in the capital Saturday night.

The motion was easily defeated by Olmert's haredi and right-wing coalition, but it sparked a heated debate.

Councillor Meron Benvenisti (One Jerusalem), who presented the motion, charged that Olmert was responsible for the damage to Arab

property caused by the rioters.

"[Olmert] seriously hurt Jerusalem's image," Benvenisti charged.

Olmert vowed to continue organizing protests against Arafat coming to Jerusalem. "I do not regret what I have done," he said, referring to his involvement in the demonstrations.

The mayor did not directly address the issue of the damage done to Arab property by the rioters. Today, Olmert is scheduled to visit sites in eastern Jerusalem damaged during the unrest.

MKs open debate on changing Basic Law: Jerusalem

DAN IZENBERG

THE opposition and coalition opened a new front in their dispute over the government's intentions on Jerusalem yesterday when the Knesset law committee began debating two bills making it more difficult to amend the Basic Law: Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert demanded that the bills be further strengthened to block alleged government intentions to allow the eastern part of the city to serve as the capital of a Palestinian state.

Although the private members bills were drafted more than a year ago, the discussion was held under the shadow of Saturday night's massive demonstration in Jerusalem and opposition accusations that the government will bow to PLO demands to give it political standing in the city.

The bills were initiated by Yitzhak Levy (NRP) and Uzi Landau (Likud). Levy's bill calls for increasing the majority of MKs required to change the current law from 61 to 80. Landau's bill adds another provision forbidding the government from conducting negotiations on changing the city's borders or status.

The committee discussion fol-

lowed the same theme as the weekend protests. Levy and Landau insisted that their legislation was necessary to prevent the government from yielding to pressure on Jerusalem.

Coalition MKs said there was no disagreement over Jerusalem and charged that the opposition fabricated the controversy, because it could not rouse public opposition to the Gaza/Jericho Accord.

Olmert said it was time the government admitted there was a serious dispute between the government and the opposition over the future of the city, and it should not be swept under the carpet.

"Let's speak the truth," he told the coalition MKs. "You know there is a debate over Jerusalem, because you know that when the time comes, you intend to allow part of Jerusalem to be the capital of another state."

Olmert said one of the reasons for the public's concern over government intentions was the affair involving Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's secret letter on the status of the Palestinian institu-

tions in eastern Jerusalem.

Olmert said he rejected the government's alleged attempts to restrict him to the municipal affairs.

"Whoever thinks he can somehow tell the mayor of Jerusalem that he should deal with sewage and sidewalks but not the fate of his city, that he may not talk about anything except what he wants - that is hypocrisy," he said. "When Teddy Kollek expressed his views on Jerusalem, did anyone on the left dare say it was not part of his job?"

Olmert said he supported the right of anyone to worship in Jerusalem's holy places but said if Arafat was allowed to visit the holy sites, he would not be doing so for religious reasons.

"I don't think the holy sites should be a mechanism for political incitement to achieve political aims that are the opposite of the Basic Law: Jerusalem," said Olmert. "I will laugh in the face of anyone who tells me Arafat will come to pray on the Temple Mount for religious reasons. It has nothing to do with religion. It has to do with politics, with incitement to divide the city, with jihad, with holy war but not with religion."

Nudel: People don't have free speech in Israel

HERB KEINON

FORMER Prisoner of Zion Ida Nudel said yesterday she feared that Israel was on its way to becoming a totalitarian state.

Nudel's comments came at a demonstration she and 25 others attended at Sharon Prison in Tel Mond against the administrative detention of five Kach and Kahane Chai activists.

"I came from a country where the government could take anyone off the street, and hold them in prison for years. Or they could

hold them for months, and then let them go free, saying they made a mistake. I was told that was a totalitarian regime," she said.

She said she feared Israelis would eventually be unable to express themselves "freely and openly."

Asked why she never demonstrated when Arabs were held in administrative detention, Nudel said, "You can't embrace everything. I am concerned with the

interests of my people. If these interests collide with the interests of others, it is a problem, but is a product of a historic situation."

Aaron Lerner, a Ra'anana resident who organized the protest, said he believes administrative detention is wrong for both Jews and Arabs, and that "a mistake was made" by not protesting administrative detention of Palestinians as well.

Lerner claimed the five detainees - Baruch Marzel, Noam Federman, Ben-Zion Gopstein, Baruch Ben-Yosef and Shmuel Ben-Yacov - are "political prisoners held for their beliefs, not their actions. If there are charges against them, let them be brought to court. If not, set them free."

Nine men allegedly affiliated with Kach and Kahane Chai were arrested and held in administrative detention after the Hebron massacre. Four have been released.

RABIN

(Continued from Page 1) [right-wing extremists], marginal, tiny and we reject it. But worse, much, much worse, is the fact that we have been witnessing in recent days a different type of hooliganism, the verbal hooliganism of the prime minister who is losing control of his mouth."

At this point, Rabin walked out of the plenum, returning only after Netanyahu finished speaking. Avi Yehzekel (Labor) to Netanyahu: Retract those words. Uzi Landau (Likud) to Rabin: Leave, leave.

Relativist Ze'evi (Molodet) to Rabin: Go home. Shaul said Arafat's visit to Gaza and Jericho was in keeping with the agreement between the two sides.

"Arafat acted in accordance with the terms of the agreements and understandings, and the prime minister approved his visit," said Shaul. "What did you expect? That we would resort to delaying tactics and pretexts. That we would adopt an ostrich policy like you? That is not our way."

He then pulled out a document entitled "Likud - preparations for Arafat's arrival in Jerusalem" and charged that the instructions, allegedly drafted by Tzahi Hanegbi, envisaged clashes between Jewish demon-

strators and tens of thousands of Arabs.

According to Shaul, the measures suggested by Hanegbi included blocking all access roads to Jerusalem and chaining protesters to one another.

Ovadia Eli (Likud) declared that the document referred to by Shaul was not an official Likud paper.

During the Labor faction meeting, Rabin accused Labor MKs of fomenting panic for no reason after hearing warnings that the government was losing popular support and might not be re-elected.

Red-faced and inhaling hard on a cigarette, he exploded during comments by Ra'anan Cohen, who warned that the party was unprepared for a street campaign.

"Why do you present an inaccurate picture?" Rabin said. "The majority of the public supports our policy, and you paint a distorted picture. You don't understand the public mood."

The exchange quickly deteriorated into an ugly shouting match between the two.

Cohen: "Only you understand the mood."

Rabin: "I understand because I see the surveys and you don't."

Cohen: "Do you go out into the

field?"

Rabin: "Don't worry about me. You are creating confusion and panic. Don't worry about me and don't protect me."

Cohen: "I'm worried about the movement."

Rabin: "Thanks a lot. Panic-mongers. Stop crying and start working."

Cohen: "This is not the way to build a party."

Later, in a calmer tone, Rabin said he was "confident and certain about the path we have taken."

"I am sure we have the mandate," he said. "I am sure we have the support of 55 percent to 65% of the public for what we are doing. Obviously the attacks of the Likud are directed at me. And believe me, I couldn't care less."

Rabin accused the Likud of fabricating a disagreement between the government and the opposition over Jerusalem.

"I said, and I repeat, that they are 'dancing on the blood,'" said Rabin. "I will not retract that statement, because it's the truth."

During the Likud faction meeting, several MKs demanded that the party clearly condemn and disassociate itself from extremists who vandalized Palestinian property and wanted to break into the Old City to attack Palestinians.

"Demonstrations are a democratic means," said David Levy. "The leading movement has the responsibility. We cannot, in the framework of cooperation that is vital, be partners to behavior which is different from our own or groups that issue orders in violation of the law. If, heaven forbid, plans regarding the Old City had succeeded, our faces would be in the mud. It would have been a Machpela Cave pogrom with our participation. We must not be perceived as defending such actions."

ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1)

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, An-Nahar said.

Local Fatah leader Faisal Hussein and Palestinian Police Chief Haj Ismail Jabr gave a general account of Arafat's planned day at a press conference. They would not say when Arafat would arrive nor confirm that he would be addressing the public from the balcony of the municipality building, which has a new awning for the occasion.

Palestinian Broadcasting Corp. employees said the speech might be switched to the Allenby Bridge Bus Terminus, which could accommodate a larger crowd. Some estimate tens of thousands will attend. Jericho's municipality placed a big banner across the entrance in Arabic welcoming "the president and leader." Pictures of Arafat and flags gave the towns of 15,000 a more intimate feeling than Gaza.

SOLDIER

(Continued from Page 1)

tracks, one used by the IDF and the other by the SLA, were hit in Reithan, where several houses also sustained considerable damage.

Army sources said yesterday that the Hizbullah attack was part of the organization's attempt to draw attention away from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Gaza and Jericho and to keep the Lebanese border area unstable, following Israel's June 2 attack in Ein-Dardara, in which 49 Hizbullah fighters were killed.

"It is part of reality in south Lebanon. It is a war of attrition, and today it is just more of the same in terms of fire volume, but unfortunately we also had casualties," a source said.

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Andrea and Charles Bronfman
on the passing of
DORIS MORRISON
May her memory be a blessing to all of Israel
Edgar M. Bronfman President
Israel Singer Secretary General

Handwritten text in Arabic script.

'Palestine' ID tags raise no eyebrows at Jerusalem medical conference

JUDY SIEGEL

NAME tags printed with the word "Palestine," as a country of residence did not raise many eyebrows when a few dozen doctors, nurses and midwives from the territories wore them at an international medical conference in Jerusalem yesterday.

Although some of the 37 Palestinian participants in the First World Congress on Labor and Delivery wore tags identifying them as coming from the "West Bank," the organizers did not object when others asked for "Palestine."

Dr. Fathi Arafat, the brother of PLO chief Yasser Arafat who had promised to attend, did not show up.

But conference sources said they had not yet ruled out participation by Fathi Arafat, the Cairo-based pediatrician and head of the International Red Crescent Society. They suggested that the younger Arafat might be reluctant to visit Jerusalem before his brother, or that because of his resemblance and relation to the PLO chief, he feared being harmed by extremists.

No delegates from Arab countries—Morocco, Qatar, Kuwait or Egypt—made an appearance at the festive opening. The Egyptians are due today, for the second day of the four-day conference, and the Omani representative arrived in Jerusalem but did not attend the first sessions.

President Ezer Weizman, who opened the first session, made a point of greeting the Arabs among the hundreds of delegates from 50 countries at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel. "Ahlan wa-shalan," he said.

Dr. Abdul Rahman al-Shunna, director of the Rafidia surgical hospital in Nablus and chief of its gynecology and obstetrics department, told *The Jerusalem Post* that no one seemed upset by his requesting—and wearing—a "Palestine" tag.

"The silent majority of Israelis are not upset by this," he said. "I never had time to learn Hebrew,



Doctors from 49 different countries and former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek (center) release peace doves yesterday at the opening of the First World Conference on Labor and Delivery in Jerusalem.

but now I want to so that I'll be able to have closer contact with this silent majority, as well as the medical professionals among them."

Shunna said he would like more Israeli specialists to visit hospitals in the territories. "We don't hate Israelis or Jews," he said. "Since the intifada began, they're afraid. But we would gain by their presence, because we can learn."

Shunna said he would like more Palestinian doctors to study specialties in Israeli hospitals. "The Israeli government should subsidize this," he said. "We haven't a single genetics expert, or plastic surgeon, or burns unit in the territories. We'd like to be able to deal with such things ourselves."

Itham Barhani, chief nurse at the Jenin government hospital, said she rarely has contact with Israeli counterparts.

"I studied nursing at Augusta Victoria Hospital in [eastern] Jerusalem, and then spent a year at Assaf Harofe Hospital [in Tzrifin]. But I'm glad to be here and listen to lectures on all subjects."

Barhani, whose hospital delivers an average of 300 babies a month, said the facility lacks many basic items.

"We have only one fetal monitor and ultrasound scan—and not a single TV set or video in the hospital—and we can't perform epidural anesthesia, because there is only one anesthetist," she said.

Over 90 percent of women in the Jenin area give birth in the hospital because the civil administration charges only NIS 100 for a delivery, even though most women do not have health insurance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

KHC denies mass exodus

KUPAT Holim Clalit will receive 69.4 percent of the employer's tax (*mas makbil*), and not 65.5%, which is its share of membership among the public. This is because health funds with a larger number of elderly people get higher compensation from the National Insurance Institute.

Clalit spokesman David Tagar said the Maccabi health fund hurried to the media on Sunday to show how it and the other small health funds were growing, and Clalit membership was shrinking.

Tagar did not dispute the actual figures, but noted that they far from reflect an exodus of members from the Histadrut health fund. "What's important is how much of the employer's tax we get from the NII, and this figure is only 0.86% lower than that resulting from the previous NII survey six months ago," said Tagar.

Bnei Brak sanitation workers end strike

The two-week strike of Bnei Brak sanitation workers ended yesterday, after Mayor Moshe Irenstein agreed to give the workers salary increments for clothing, additional vacation days and other benefits.

The sides also agreed to enlist extra garbage trucks so that by Shabbat the refuse that piled up in the city during the strike could be cleaned up. *Itim*

Diplomats receive new posts

The Foreign Ministry announced the following new diplomatic appointments yesterday:

Moshe Gilboa, current ambassador to Nigeria, to Helsinki; Michael Shilo, deputy chief of mission in Washington, becomes ambassador to Norway; Yoel Barnea, a diplomat dealing with Eastern European affairs, becomes consul-general in Rio de Janeiro; and Daniel Gal, director of protocol division, was appointed consul-general in Montreal.

Young adults should have measles shots

Adults up to age 28 who have not received two measles immunizations since infancy and who are exposed to the virus are advised to get a booster shot within three days of exposure.

But the Health Ministry says the measles risk is relatively low free shots except to medical and nursing students and all health workers.

There is currently an outbreak of measles, with about 60 new cases reported per week. Rishpon said the outbreak, which appears cyclically every few years, began in the north and has now hit Jerusalem. Over half of the new cases in Jerusalem are haredi children, who live in more crowded conditions and whose parents are less likely to take them for routine vaccinations as infants.

Sea link with China inaugurated

The first Chinese ship to dock at Haifa port arrived yesterday, on the maiden voyage of the COSCO Chinese shipping lines. The container ships follow a decision by the Chinese in April that their ships will visit Israeli ports on the container line linking Chinese and Far East ports with Israeli and US ports. Chinese vessels are expected every 10 days. *Itim*

Karmiel college to offer BA degrees

The ORT Braude College in Karmiel has been accredited by the Council for Higher Education to offer a Bachelor's degree in engineering, beginning with the coming school year. The college has applied to also grant academic degrees in computer science, chemical engineering, biochemistry, and other fields.

Body of soldier, missing since 1948 war, found

THE IDF's missing soldiers unit recently discovered the location of the grave of a soldier of the 1948 war, a Mahal volunteer during the War of Independence who was shot down over Syria and listed as missing in action for 46 years.

Bloch was downed in July 1948, during a battle for control of the bridge near Mishmar Hayarden in the Upper Galilee. The body was located in a military cemetery in Nahalat Yitzhak, in the section containing the graves of casualties of the battle of Beit Afa in the Shfela region.

The error was discovered when the army began to review the history of various battles during the 1948 war, in order to issue an updated memorial volume for the war's casualties. During research into the battle at Beit Afa, a discrepancy was discovered between the number of casualties from the battle known to have been buried in Nahalat Yitzhak and the number of gravesites in that section of the cemetery. A query to the archives of the Tel Aviv burial society revealed that one of the bodies buried in the "Beit Afa" section had in fact been returned from Syria in October 1949.

Research by the missing person's unit revealed that while Bloch had been taken alive by the Syrians after being shot down, he apparently died the same day and was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Damascus. When Syria returned the body in 1949, they did so with confusing documentation, and a tomb stone with an incorrect name was mistakenly erected over the grave. *(Itim)*

Strike at TA blind center continues

JUDY SIEGEL

THE 10-member staff of the Tel Aviv Center for the Blind was on strike for the second day to protest the government's failure to transfer promised funds.

The center, established 25 years ago, provides a variety of aids to some 10,000 blind people at subsidized prices.

The equipment includes walking sticks, Braille-printing machines, Braille watches, thermometers and talking computers.

Without the discounts of up to 90 percent, these would all be prohibitively expensive.

Herzl Muchtar, director of the center, said yesterday that last year, as now, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs was very late in transferring allocations to the agency.

"But this time we wouldn't be silent," he said. "We took loans so that we could continue to serve the blind, and now we owe the banks NIS 500,000, including NIS 50,000 in interest."

"Our annual budget is NIS 2 million, but so far the ministry has sent us only NIS 250,000," said Muchtar. "Two weeks ago, officials said the money was on its way, but we still haven't received it."

Ministry officials said yesterday they were aware of the problem and were working to solve it.

Tourism Ministry tells Tiberias to clean up streets

HAIM SHAPIRO

TOURISM Minister Uzi Baram yesterday warned Tiberias Mayor Yossi Peretz that the ministry might cut tourism development subsidies if the city did not clean up its streets.

In a letter to Peretz, Baram said he had received a copy of a letter from the Tiberias Hotel Association to the mayor, in which the hoteliers said the garbage regularly overflowed in the tourist area and sewage ran in the streets. According to the association, these problems caused the local tourist industry millions of dollars in damage.

If the situation was not ameliorated, Baram said, he would consider cutting off the subsidies.

In response, municipal spokesman Shmuel Weiser said the letter Baram received pertained to a municipal workers strike which took place in the spring. Since the beginning of June, he said, the town had hired a contractor to collect garbage and clean the streets and the situation had improved considerably. Even during the strike there had been no sewage in the streets, he said.

Wolf caught after making a meal of llamas

LIAT COLLINS and Itim

A WOLF with exotic tastes has been caught near the llama and alpaca farm near Mitzpe Ramon. The wolf was caught in a trap set for it on the grazing land, where it recently killed two alpacas and badly wounded a third.

The attacks were carried out during the day, even though wolves are usually nocturnal predators. Apparently the wolf had learned the habits of the Pyrenean mountain dogs that guard the area—except in the heat of the day, when the dogs apparently prefer to sleep in the shade, leaving their llamas alone and unprotected.

Three weeks ago the farm owners, together with the Nature Reserves Authority, decided to set traps in the area. Since then, four foxes and one hyena have been caught and released.

The two-year-old wolf was taken to the Yotvata animal reserve to recuperate from wounds it inflicted on itself in the trap. It will soon be released in the Arava desert, where it will have to make do with gazelles and ibex.

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Baltics seek Clinton's support on troop pull-out

RIGA (Reuters) — Leaders of the three Baltic states will be seeking a strong declaration of US support for freeing their countries of the last Russian troops when they meet President Bill Clinton in Latvia tomorrow.

The presence of 10,500 Russian soldiers in Latvia and 2,500 in Estonia will be high on the agenda when Clinton meets President Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia, Lennart Meri of Estonia and Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania.

"We are waiting for strong US support on the pull-out of Russian troops," Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik told Estonian radio recently. The three Baltic states, independent between the two world wars, were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 and regained their independence in 1991 only after a hard-line coup attempt against then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Russia has withdrawn from Lithuania troops left behind by the collapse of Soviet power and has agreed to pull its troops out of Latvia by August 31. But it has not agreed to leave Estonia.

"The main topic of the discussions will be about security problems," Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birzaks told Reuters. "It is necessary to withdraw the troops by August 31 and I hope that will be done in Latvia and Estonia," he added.

A senior US administration official said Clinton, the first US president to visit the Baltics, intended to raise the troops issue with President Boris Yeltsin in private talks after the Naples G7 summit this weekend.

"It's terribly important that the troops be out by August 31. That was the deadline set by the Russian government," another senior US official in the region said.

Moscow, however, has linked the troops issue with the treatment of large Russian-speaking minorities in Estonia and Latvia, many of whom were brought in to man Soviet factories.

It accuses Estonia of discriminating against the Russians with language and citizenship laws. Estonia denies this.

Russia also strongly criticized a new Latvian citizenship law passed by parliament last month which would restrict the chances of many Russian-speakers in Latvia becoming citizens.

The bill was also criticized by the Council of Europe and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Ulmans, after talks with Western ambassadors, the CSCE and the Council, sent the bill back to parliament for redrafting.



Greek police officers search the site where Turkish diplomat Haluk Sipahioglu (inset) was attacked yesterday in Athens. (AP)

Turkish diplomat slain in Athens

Ambushed on way to work by November 17 terrorist squad

News agencies

ATHENS

GUNMEN of the November 17 terrorist organization fatally wounded a Turkish diplomat in an Athens suburb as he drove to work yesterday, police said. The Greek and Turkish foreign ministers expressed hope that the incident would not damage relations between the two regional rivals.

At 8:50 a.m. three men pumped six bullets into Turkish embassy Counselor Omer Haluk Sipahioglu, 46, hitting him in the chest, abdomen and hand before escaping in heavy traffic. Police said a three-man terrorist squad used the same semi-automatic 45 mm pistol that the November 17 group had used in previous attacks.

Sipahioglu survived the attack but died in hospital several hours later. Turkey protested to Greece over the killing.

"We vehemently condemn this dastardly attack. Our loss and sorrow

is great," a Turkish foreign ministry statement said.

The Greek government expressed "deep sorrow and revulsion" at the murder, spokesman Evangelos Venizelos told reporters.

"The government condemns this murder with exasperation," he said. "The perpetrators of the crime and all who hide behind them harm our country's interests."

The gunmen staged the ambush as the diplomat was getting into his car in the coastal suburb of Palaio Faliro to drive to work at the central Athens embassy. He was alone in the vehicle and the window on the driver's side was blown out by a hail of bullets from semi-automatic pistols.

ish press attache and seriously wounded the Turkish consul with a bomb blast in separate attacks in 1991.

November 17 said it carried out those attacks because Turkey had "expansionist policies" in the region and was trying to permanently divide the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

Relations between Greece and Turkey, which have been strained in recent months by a series of disputes. Greece has accused Ankara of violating its airspace, raising tensions in a large Moslem minority near the Turkish border, and of failing to provide security for the Ecumenical Patriarch — the Istanbul-based spiritual leader of all Orthodox Christians.

Ankara has accused Greece of aiding the Kurdish rebels, who have carried out several attacks against tourist targets in Turkey in recent months.

Texas road deaths on one day hit 40

DALLAS (Reuters) — The Texas highway death toll Sunday reached 40, just shy of a single-day fatality record, the Department of Public Safety said yesterday.

Three major accidents Sunday killed 31 people, including 23 children. At least nine others were killed in isolated accidents across the state. In the worst accident, a van carrying a Los Angeles family of four adults and 14 children got rear-ended by a tractor-trailer rig on Interstate 20, 20 miles west of Fort Worth.

Only two adults and two children survived the crash. The 47-year-old driver of the car remained in critical condition in a Dallas hospital yesterday, and two four-year-old children were in good and serious condition in hospitals in Fort Worth.

BOB Kustra, the Republican lieutenant governor of Illinois, said last week he was quitting politics to become a talk radio host.

He wants to "inform the public, to solicit opinions and to have a lot of fun" — all objectives more easily achieved behind a microphone than in political office.

There could be no better illustration of the growing influence, appeal and power of talk radio in America as a force to mobilize and energize public opinion. Increasingly, much of that opinion is conservative and Republican.

It caused a frustrated President Clinton to lash out at talk radio in general and ultra-conservative broadcaster Rush Limbaugh in particular during a linkup with a St. Louis radio station from Air Force One last week.

"If you look at how much of talk radio is just a constant, unremitting drumbeat of negativity and cynicism — I don't think the American people are cynical but you can't blame them

for responding that way," Clinton said. "After I get off the radio with you, Rush Limbaugh will have three hours to say whatever he wants and I won't have any opportunity to respond and there is no truth detector."

There are, of course, many kinds of talk radio and many kinds of hosts. Some are liberal, some conservative, some may even be neutral. Some are serious, some humorous, some religious, some secular. But it seems to be true that conservatives feel most at home — and enjoy the most success — in the medium.

"Clinton's rage and frustration is a backhand tribute to conservative exploitation of the communications revolution," wrote conservative columnist Pat Buchanan, a candidate for the 1992 Republican presidential nomination.

ALAN ELSNER

WASHINGTON

lence is required during the master's broadcasts.

His on-air reply to Clinton typified his style: "I get up every day and I look at the institutions and traditions that made this country great under assault," he said.

"And what do I do? I simply defend them. This is simply Rush Limbaugh dissenting against the agenda of this administration. And I'm doing it right here in the United States. I didn't go off to some foreign country to protest against my country like he (Clinton) did," he said, referring to Clinton's protest against the Vietnam War at England's Oxford University.

But Limbaugh, according to critics, is often loose with facts. A study by the left-leaning Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting last week said he has made "provocative false statements about topics such as cigarette smoking, health care, poverty and the Iran-contra scandal."

Most of the calls he accepts on his show come from those who agree with him. He used to cut off abortion rights callers with the sucking sound of a vacuum cleaner followed by a woman's scream until persuaded this was in questionable taste. (Reuters)

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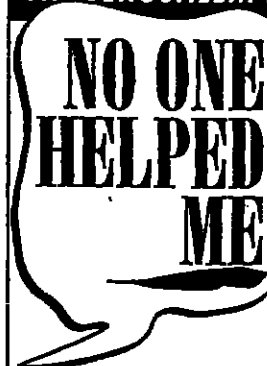
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Tour guide: Mordechai Sofer. NIS 120.

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Some say, "It's music frozen in time." The architecture of public buildings should be a reflection of the society in which it is born. Is it so? We'll also visit The Mormon University, HU Mt. Scopus campus, and the new Jerusalem Town Hall complex. Lunch.
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Fighting clouds peace prospects in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — Moslem and Serb forces traded artillery fire along Bosnia's battlefronts yesterday in a week in which mediators will try yet again to persuade the combatants to compromise in the interests of peace.

The United Nations reported more fighting in an area of north-central Bosnia that has seen sustained fighting in recent weeks, together with shelling along the Serbs' vital supply corridor close to the Croatian border.

"The exchange of shelling resumed this morning in the area west of Gracanica with a total of 120 detonations reported," said UN military spokesman Commander Eric Chaperon. "The Posavina corridor remained a source of tension with 102 scattered detonations reported yesterday."

There was also fighting in central Bosnia, while Canadian peacekeeping troops came under fire on three occasions. One Canadian soldier was wounded in the face when Moslem troops started shooting.

The continued fighting came as foreign ministers from the United States, Russia, Britain, Germany and France were due to meet in Geneva today to endorse the latest peace plan.

Officials from the five-nation "contact group" were meeting at the German diplomatic mission in Geneva yesterday afternoon to complete their negotiations.

The plan, which awards 51 percent of Bosnia to the Moslem-Croat federation and the rest to the Serbs, who control 70 percent now, will be presented to the warring factions today. They will be given 10 days to take it or leave it.

Neither side has shown any enthusiasm for the proposal and diplomats

and UN officials test the parties will reject it in favour of continuing to try to settle the 27-month-old war on the battlefield — a process that could take years.

"They'll offer them the map, the Serbs will reject it and then they will all go back to war," a Western diplomat said yesterday.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, was quoted by the French newspaper Le Monde as saying he was pessimistic about the plan being accepted.

"We will communicate to the parties a list of deterrent and incentive measures using the carrot and the stick to bring them to agree. But I am not very optimistic about that. Hence my concern," Hurd said, according to the French translation.

Serbs say they are required to hand over too much land. The Moslem-Croat alliance says its share would be too small to repatriate refugees expelled by Serbs earlier in the war.

France and Britain, which provide the bulk of the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia, have threatened to withdraw or reduce their contribution if the peace plan is rejected.

The United Nations says the Serbs have halted an offensive by Moslem-led government forces around Mount Orzen in north-central Bosnia after more than three weeks of fighting over a key supply route.

The Moslems, no longer forced to fight on two fronts since renewing their alliance with the Croats, have taken the war to the Serbs for the first time since it began.

Despite their new alliance, tensions between Moslems and Croats have not disappeared entirely.

After uprising, Cambodia to outlaw Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (AP) — One day after suppressing a coup attempt, Cambodian leaders tackled a divisive issue on another front yesterday — a bill to outlaw the Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Parliament voted yesterday to add the bill to its agenda, and Second Premier Hun Sen said the parties already had the more than the two-thirds majority needed to enact it.

Fifteen lawmakers opposing the current draft of the law unsuccessfully asked that Parliament shelve it until officials could determine if it was constitutional.

They noted that the constitution guarantees equality for all people regardless of political affiliation.

The Khmer Rouge has been fighting from the jungles since its brutal 1975-78 regime was overthrown.

The government, which was formed by a UN-organized poll in May 1993, held a series of peace talks with the Khmer Rouge but all of them failed. The only choice left, government officials said, was to outlaw the group.

Finance Minister Sam Rainsy, a leading opponent of the bill, says government officials have been pressuring members of Parliament into supporting it. He and others fear the law would give the government a pretext to suppress all its opponents.

"If they want to kill someone, they need only say he is a Khmer Rouge," Sam Rainsy said.

The bill says members of the Khmer Rouge will be arrested and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 years to life.

Sam Rainsy said he also feared that the law would worsen the fighting. "We have had two decades of war," he said. "I doubt that we will bring peace by enacting this law."

Khieu Kanharith, deputy information minister, said the fighting would continue whether or not the government outlawed the Khmer Rouge.

He said the law would weaken the Khmer Rouge by providing the government with the means to seize its assets and restrict travel by its members.

The draft law says all state assets controlled by the Khmer Rouge shall be confiscated. This is aimed at cutting the Khmer Rouge's gem and timber trade with Thai businesses, which is estimated to earn the guerrillas \$20 million a month.

Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh has been accused of trying to silence opponents of the bill. But he denied yesterday that any pressure had been exerted on the lawmakers.

"How could you believe something like that?" he said. "They are free to express their voices. In Cambodia today, we have a liberal democracy."

The controversy, along with the coup attempt, showed the fragility of the government, comprising two major parties that had fought each other on the battlefield for more than a decade.

The government said the coup leaders had planned to assassinate key officials and army officers, but soldiers suppressed the 300 armed rebels without firing a shot.

Author-vet James Herriot saved by flock of sheep

LONDON (Reuters) — Author James Herriot, whose gentle accounts of the life of a British country veterinarian have sold around the world and inspired a television series, was in hospital on Monday after being attacked by a flock of sheep.

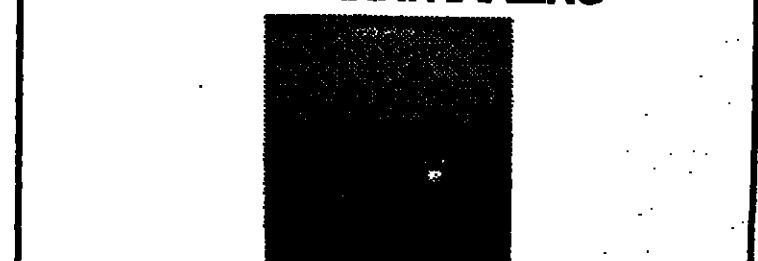
The 77-year-old writer, whose real name is Alf Wight, was trying to stop the black-faced sheep from eating

plants in his garden when they batted and trampled him, breaking his leg.

Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small* and other books chronicled unusual animal behavior and the sometimes unorthodox methods used by a country vet to treat and control them.

His wife Joan said they had been having problems with sheep getting into their garden in Yorkshire in northern England.

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Rebels sweep into Rwanda's capital

JULIAN BEDFORD
KIGALI

JUBILANT Rwandan rebels captured the capital Kigali and the last major government-held southern town of Butare yesterday but in a radical policy shift, French troops were ordered to halt any further advance.

Witnesses said forces of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) pushed into central Kigali shortly after daybreak following two days of intense artillery bombardment of key government positions.

Hundreds of dispirited government soldiers, fleeing the rebel advance, tramped up the central African city's mist-shrouded hills to escape southwards through the one remaining exit not yet sealed by RPF fighters.

"I am so happy, for so long I have dreamed of walking through the

streets of Kigali," said RPF commander Colonel Frank Mugabe as he escorted a group of journalists around abandoned government positions.

He said there was not much fighting as the rebels moved into the city centre in their first major push in several weeks of fighting.

"The government appears to have withdrawn from all strategic sites in the city centre. There are still pockets of resistance, but those we are now dealing with," he added.

Columns of young rebel soldiers wound their way through the sandy lanes of the rambling, bomb-blasted capital to take up positions at key captured sites.

Tired and wet after more than three months of hard combat, they waved

and smiled at groups of watching journalists.

Many residents appeared to keep off the streets, but at the Sainte Famille religious complex — a death camp for some 2,000 refugees threatened by extremist militia of the Hutu tribe — there was jubilation.

Rebel soldiers, most of whom come from the minority Tutsi tribe, embraced relatives and friends long given up for dead in a country where an estimated 500,000 people have been butchered since early April.

"Early yesterday, the Interhamwe militia walked away and then nothing happened. I knew it was the end," said a 26-year-old Tutsi student, Lin Niyonzima.

Only hours after securing control of Kigali, RPF forces to the south stormed into the last major government-held southern town of Butare and threatened to move deeper into the heartland of the government-backed Hutus.

"They have taken Butare. The information we have is it fell at 1200 local time (1000 GMT)," a French military officer told Reuters at the main French base in Goma, Zaire, for "Operation Turquoise".

But he added that RPF forces had not yet reached Gikongoro, where French troops received the order yes-

terday to halt the rebel advance on the government's enclave in the west of Rwanda.

Colonel Didier Thibaut, based in Gikongoro, 20 km from the battle front, said Colonel Jacques Rosier, commander of "Operation Turquoise's" southern command, had ordered him to stop the rebels from capturing the town or going beyond it.

The order marked a radical shift in France's policy towards the RPF and put "Operation Turquoise" on a new offensive footing just as rebel forces were turning on the west.

Paris had insisted that it was leading a purely humanitarian mission and had avoided whenever possible any confrontation with the rebel movement. (Reuters)

Russian secret police arrest militant neo-Nazis

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's secret police said yesterday that they have arrested members of a neo-Nazi group for murdering three people and planning to set fires in Moscow movie theaters showing the film "Schindler's List."

The Federal Counterintelligence Service, successor to the KGB, said the group, the Legion of the Werewolf, operated under the disguise of a private security company.

In recent days, the Legion's leader and some of his closest aides were arrested, the agency said.

The number of those arrested was not disclosed.

The ITAR-Tass news agency, which carried the announcement, said the group was militant and neo-Nazi. Its name came from a Nazi secret police operation called "Werewolf" in which agents were supposed to go underground after Nazi Germany's defeat, ITAR-Tass said.

State television showed footage of Federal Counterintelligence agents arresting Legion members, who were wearing camouflage uniforms.

The tape also showed a Legion hideout decorated with a swastika, and a body the report identified as a victim of the Legion.

According to documents seized by agents, the Legion of the Werewolf advocates exterminating all "carriers of a different ideology," which seemed to include just about everybody, including democrats, communists, Jews, Russian nationalists and a community of Baptist Christians.

According to documents, the group also planned to set fire to movie theaters that show Steven Spielberg's film "Schindler's List," an epic story of a German industrialist who saved Jews from the Nazi Holocaust.

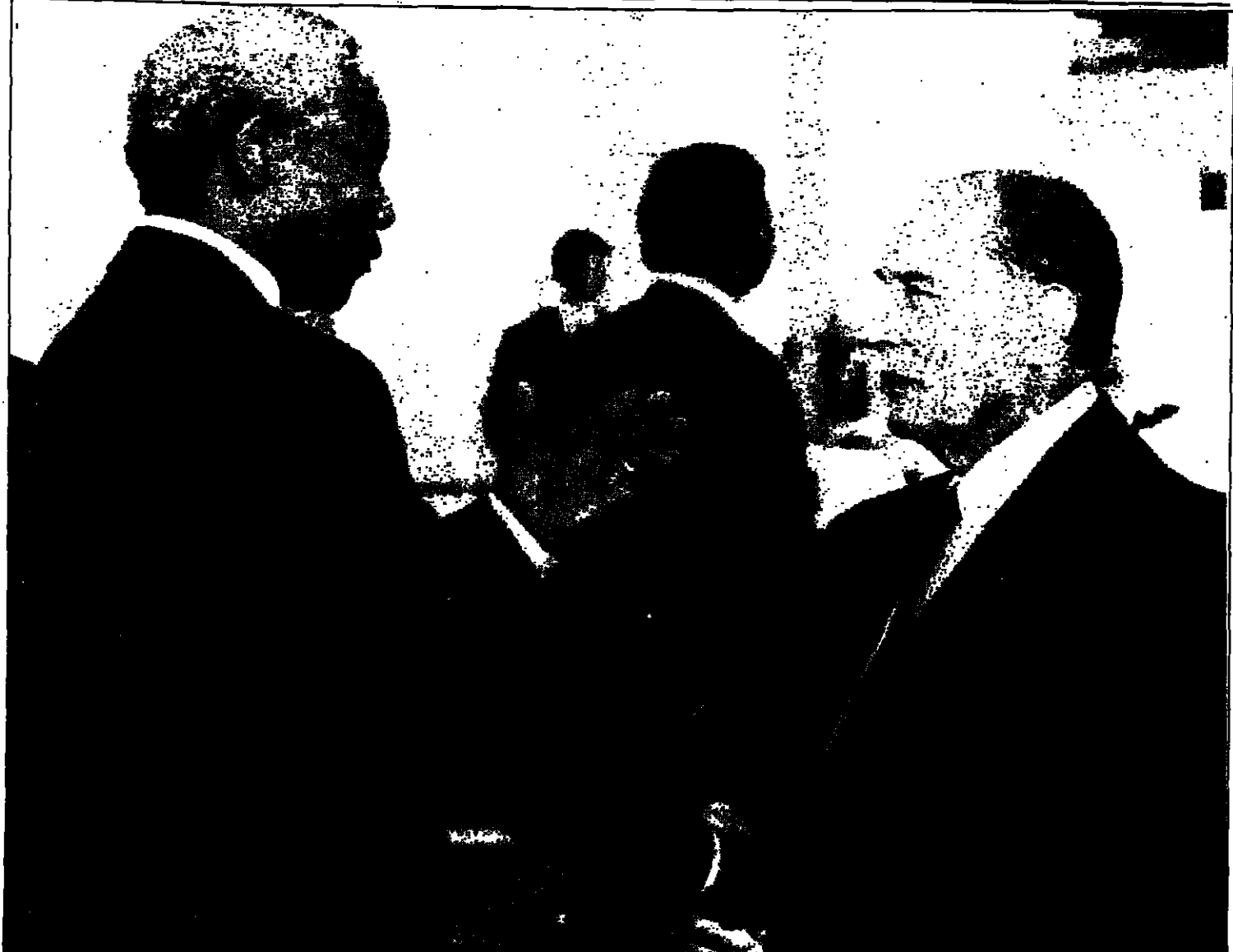
Except for a special preview last month, "Schindler's List" has not opened in Russia.

Its premiere was put off until the fall, when Spielberg can attend.

The Federal Counterintelligence Service said Legion members admitted to being accomplices in two murders and to killing a Legion member who apparently strayed from the group's ideology.

Group members also admitted committing arson at a stadium in May, authorities said.

Few other details were released. News of the arrests was released during the Moscow visit of FBI director Louis Freeh, who is in Russia to discuss cooperation in fighting organized crime, terrorism and neo-Nazi militants.



French President Mitterrand (right) is greeted at the Cape Town airport by South African President Mandela yesterday. (Reuters)

Historic Mitterrand address to SA assembly

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) — French President Francois Mitterrand became the first foreigner to address South Africa's parliament yesterday, promising that as the country recovered from the ravages of apartheid France would "be by your side."

"France is offering herself as a partner to you with her resources, with the means at her disposal and also with her ideals," Mitterrand told the 490 black and white legislators.

"The struggle for democracy is always an honorable struggle. You are building a new nation. My ambition is that France should be by your side."

Mitterrand arrived earlier yesterday on a two-day state visit as President Nelson Mandela's first official guest in post-apartheid South Africa.

He was escorted on the final part of his flight by four ageing French-built Mirage jet fighters of the South African air force.

He faced a small demonstration by Islamic fundamentalists shouting "Death to France" in protest against French involvement in its former colony Algeria and action against immigrant Moslem girls attending French schools in traditional dress.

But he was given a standing ovation as the first non-member and first foreigner to take a seat in parliament.

"I welcome as a prominent world citizen President Francois Mitterrand of France, a freedom fighter and a friend of democratic South Africa," speaker Frenk Gwinala said.

Mandela, a political prisoner for 27 years who became South Africa's

first black president on May 10, told Mitterrand in his welcome: "We shall always cherish this great moment."

Recalling a famous dining room address to members of the white parliament in 1960, he said: "In these houses of parliament, then the den of racial infamy, Harold Macmillan, the prime minister of Great Britain, spoke of the wind of change sweeping across Africa."

"Today, you join us as we celebrate the cleansing effect of the breeze of freedom."

Mitterrand's visit took South Africa a further step into the world community: following decades of anti-apartheid sanctions. These have now been dropped and South Africa has rejoined the United Nations, Commonwealth and Organisation of African Unity.

Many Western nations have announced aid packages to help to redress the imbalances left by 45 years of white minority rule.

While Mitterrand was expected during his visit to unveil economic aid to help recovery from apartheid, diplomats said he needed the profile the trip would give more than his host.

"It looks like Mitterrand is going to pump this visit for all its worth to get the reflected glory of being with Mandela," said one of Mandela's guests at parliament.

"Posterity is important to him. He wants to influence people's memory of the Mitterrand era," a Mitterrand aide said. R

Latest cease-fire unheeded as 25 killed, 75 wounded in Aden

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — Northern artillery and rocket batteries yesterday pounded the southern stronghold of Aden, killing 25 people and wounding 75, the Kuwait News Agency reported.

The shelling came despite a cease-fire unilaterally announced by southern forces to go into effect at midnight Aden time. It never took hold.

Northern authorities had not announced whether they intended to honor the truce call, the ninth so far in

the 2-month-old Yemen civil war.

Diplomats in the northern capital, San'a, confirmed the Kuwaiti agency's report that Aden was still under fire.

Hundreds are believed to have been killed since northern forces began besieging the city early in the war.

Northern forces are now entrenched on the northern edge of Dar Saad, a southern-held Aden suburb, marking a four-kilometer (2 1/2-mile)

advance since Thursday.

On Saturday, northern shelling of Aden suburbs killed 35 people, including 13 children, according to hospital statistics, reported the Kuwaiti agency.

Major underwriters hiked their war-risk insurance charges for vessels docking at all Yemeni ports, the weekly Middle East Economic Survey newsletter reported.

Oil tankers docking at Aden refinery now are being assessed premiums

of between 2.5 percent and 5 percent of the value of their cargo, up from the old rates of between 0.75 percent and 1 percent.

Both sides increasingly are targeting each other's major economic targets, including oil fields, refineries, and power and water stations.

Hostilities erupted May 4 following months of feuding between President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a northerner, and his southern vice president, Ali Salem al-Beidh.

Long before O.J., Fatty was ruined

BOB THOMAS
LOS ANGELES

FEW remember the happy days of Fatty Arbuckle. Lots of people know the headlines: "Fatty Arbuckle accused in death of starlet at wild party in S.F."

Long before the O.J. Simpson case, the round silent screen comedian was accused of manslaughter. He was acquitted after three trials, but his career was ruined.

It happened in 1921. The scene was a luxurious suite at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. Paramount's Adolph Zukor had given Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle a \$3 million contract to make feature films, and Arbuckle wanted to celebrate.

He invited 50 friends and hangers-on to a party. He bought cases of bootleg booze and hired a notorious Hollywood figure, Maude Delmont, to supply party girls.

Virginia Rappe was one of them. She was a Chicago model who had played bit parts for producer Mack Sennett. He fired her after she allegedly infected several of his actors with venereal disease. An alcoholic, she drifted in the Hollywood lowlife.

The liquor flowed at Arbuckle's all-day party. Guests danced to jazz records and Fatty entertained them with routines from his latest comedies. At 3 p.m., Rappe became sick and hysterical. She began tearing off her clothes, something she had often performed at parties. Other women and Arbuckle tried to calm her with no success.

Delmont accused Fatty of sexually attacking Rappe at the party. A doctor examined her at the hotel. She told him that Arbuckle had not attacked her or attempted sexual intercourse. Her condition worsened and she was taken to a hospital — a maternity hospital since she was discovered to be pregnant. She died there four days later. Questions persist about the cause.

In his book *The Day the Laughter Died*, David Yallop theorizes that a botched abortion may have been performed on Rappe in the hospital and an illegal autopsy done to cover it up. The official cause of death: peritonitis resulting from a lesion of the bladder.

The Hearst press was out front with sensational stories on the Arbuckle affair. Delmont was his principal accuser, claiming Rappe told her, "He did it! I know he did it! I have been hurt, I am dying."

Rumors spread — that Arbuckle inserted a Coke bottle or a jagged piece of ice in her vagina, that he crushed her with his 360-pound weight.

Dr. Melville Rumwell, who conducted the coroner's autopsy, testified at an inquest that he observed nothing abnormal about Rappe's vagina.

"At no time up to the time that the laceration of the bladder was found did anything in connection with this case lead me to believe that any violence had been done whatever," he said.

The San Francisco district attorney stirred anti-Arbuckle sentiment, but 11 of 12 jurors at his first manslaughter trial voted for acquittal. The lone holdout caused a mistrial. A second trial also was a mistrial.

Arbuckle was acquitted in a third trial. The jury said "a great injustice has been done him." But the damage could not be repaired.

Zukor canceled Arbuckle's contract and no studio would hire him. The public outcry against Hollywood as a Sodom and Gomorrah prompted producers to form an association and hire Postmaster General Will Hays to police film content and stars' behavior.

Except for a few talkie shorts a decade later, Arbuckle never acted in movies again.

By 1933, Arbuckle finished directing some two-reelers in New York and was signed by Warner Bros. to direct a feature. He celebrated with a party at a Manhattan cafe, then returned to his hotel room and died of a heart attack. He was 46.

"Few remember the happy days of the fat man who was always good for a laugh," Yallop said in his 1976 book.

"All we have left are a few old films, seldom screened." (AP)

Dog shoots owner

WARSAW (AP) — A man who left his gun unattended while preparing a target for practice shooting was hospitalized yesterday after his dog shot him.

The man, who was not identified, was in the yard of his summer house when his dog accidentally pulled the trigger while sniffing around, the PAP news agency reported.

Surgeons removed five dozen pellets from the man's body, but his wounds were not considered life-threatening.

The incident occurred in the northern town of Bytom.



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Mark Drobinsky, violoncello

Monday, July 11, 8:30 p.m. YMCA Hall, Jerusalem
Patron: Mayor Ehud Olmert
Symphony No. 4, Opus 98 in E minor — Brahms
Candide Overture — Bernstein
The Moldau — Smetana
Communion Symphony, 2nd movement — Avni
Concerto for Violoncello, "Kaddish" — Kaufman
Mark Drobinsky, violoncello

Wednesday, July 13, 8:30 p.m. Noga Theater, Tel Aviv-Jaffa
Patron: Mayor Roni Milo
Symphony No. 4, Opus 98 in E minor — Brahms
Candide Overture — Bernstein
The Moldau — Smetana
Communion Symphony, 2nd movement — Avni
Concerto for Violoncello, "Kaddish" — Kaufman
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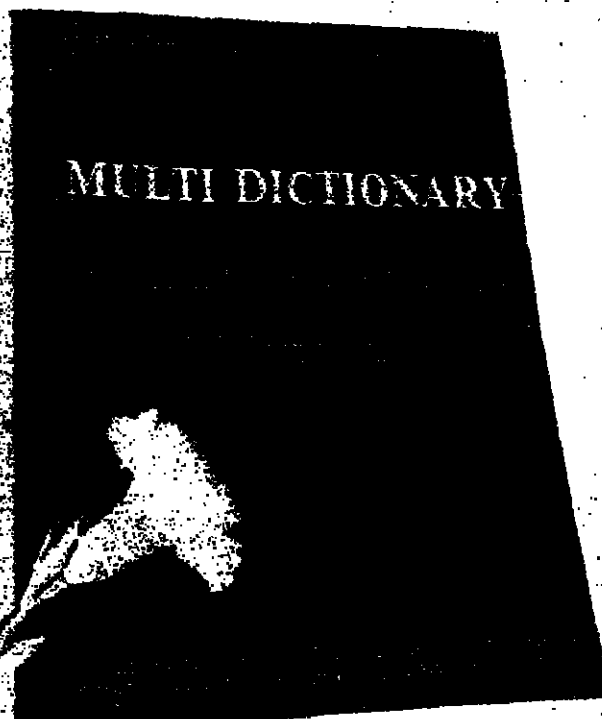
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The demonstrations' aftermath

THE right to assemble, demonstrate and protest is a fundamental democratic right. Except in the most dire emergencies, it must not be abrogated. But it is the responsibility of the demonstration's leaders not to abuse this right. They must do their utmost to prevent vandalism, barbarism and other violations of the law by their followers. Nothing vitiates the protest nor distorts its purpose more effectively than acts of vandalism.

That Saturday night's mass protest against the arrival of Yasser Arafat in Gaza was marred by the torching of an Arab-owned car and the shattering of windows in Arab-owned stores was nothing short of shameful. It may be impossible to expect the organizers to be responsible for the actions of every single demonstrator in a crowd of over 100,000, but it is incumbent on them to warn against criminal actions and condemn them: loudly, unequivocally and repeatedly. This they did not do.

The organizers must also use all the moral force at their disposal to prevent verbal violence. This is not quite as simple. One reason demonstrations are salutary is because they dramatically give vent to emotions. Yet it behooves speakers at such events not only to guard their own tongue, but to chastise those in the crowd who use extreme language and carry preposterous banners.

Calling on soldiers "not to be the government's marionettes," as one speaker did, and waving placards branding Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a traitor, as many demonstrators did, may be protected by law, but such obscenities can only reduce the protest to a noxious rant.

But an even greater responsibility lies with the government. It must be always aware that the test of democratic systems reaches its peak when controversy is acute and passions run high. And it is precisely when the opposition can muster huge numbers to oppose government policies that the government is most tempted to use harsh means to beat it back. The government has failed the democratic test. Despite its vow last week to abide by the recommendations of the Kremnitzer committee and avoid police brutality, the police acted with arbitrary, unnecessary force against demonstrators both on Saturday night and on Sunday.

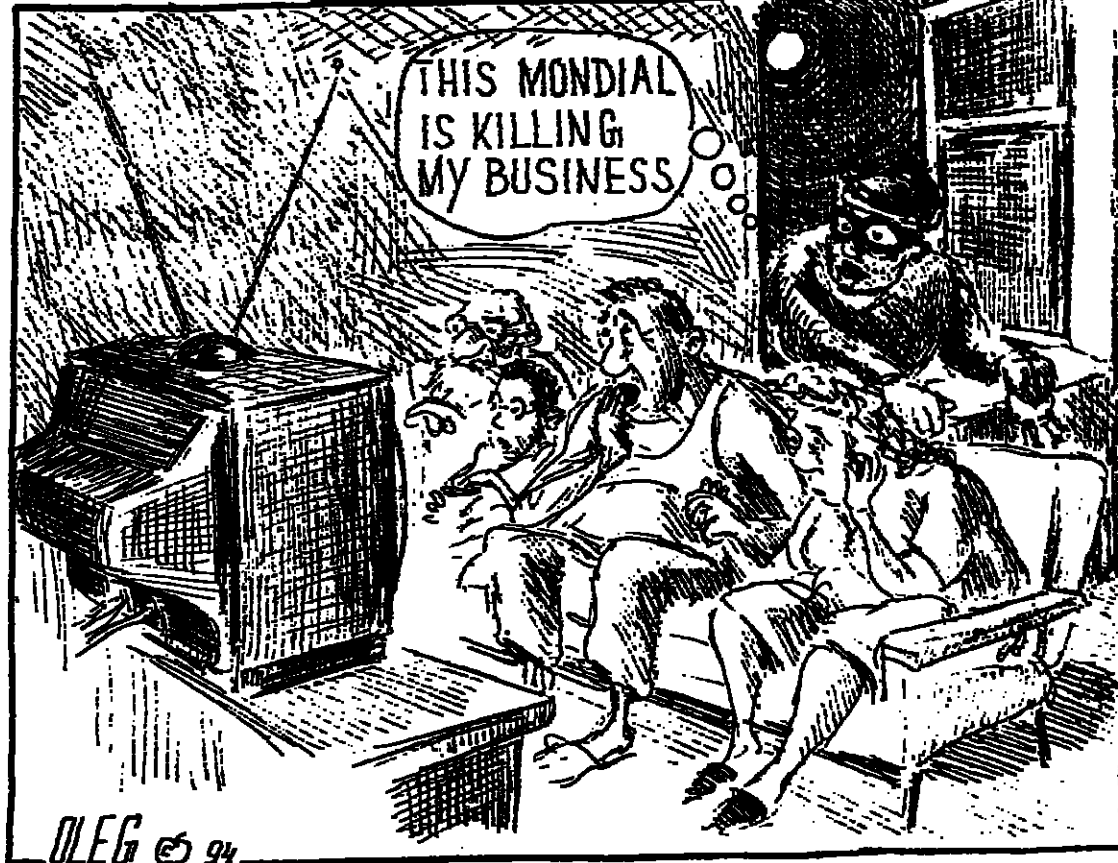
These were not isolated, exceptional incidents.

Reliable witnesses - rabbis, teachers, accountants and housewives - reported instances of wanton police brutality, enough to make Police Minister Moshe Shahal's unstinted praise for the police's conduct seem puzzling indeed. In direct contravention of an explicit police promise, a large number of policemen, to avoid identification, did not wear their tags. Police beat men, women, boys and girls for no apparent reason, sometimes after they were arrested. Clubs were used when no resistance was offered. For no apparent reason the police charged the small "tent city" pitched opposite the Prime Minister's Office. They tore down signs, confiscated loudspeakers and noise-makers, and destroyed part of the main tent.

But nothing has been more disturbing and disappointing than Rabin's reaction to the demonstrations. Incredibly, the prime minister seemed to want to match the despicable, violent language of some of the demonstrators. It was as if he was reverting to the days of the intermezzo wars of the 1940s. His rage, his terminology, his reference to "the return of the vile Jabotinsky falsehoods" and his aspersions on the sacrifices of Likud followers in Israel's wars made one wonder if he was traveling backwards in a time machine. It is one thing to witness young hotheads use unacceptable language; it is quite another to hear Israel's prime minister accusing half the nation of collaborating with the Islamic fanatics of Hamas to defeat the "peace process."

Rabin is an enthusiastic believer in a strong chief executive and an advocate of the American presidential system. But surely he must realize that even the strongest chief executive must expect opposition and harsh criticism when his government makes momentous decisions. If he is indeed convinced that his course is good for the nation, and if he wants to avoid civil strife, he - above all others - must set an example of statesmanship, cool-headedness, control and stability.

At a time like this the prime minister must explain his position and call for unity. He must not indulge in name-calling, nor petulantly walk out of a parliamentary debate, nor repeatedly and unconscionably try to delegitimize his political adversaries. If he does, he risks throwing the nation back into the horrible internal strife of a half-century ago.



Middle way - only way

GABRIEL BEN-DOR

SINCE liberal democracies resolve their differences without going to war, the question of the possible democratization of the region is of immediate relevance to Israel.

Our need for security is so deep and basic that we gladly acceded to putting the need for Palestinian democracy in the Oslo accords, hoping that in this case, too, democratization and conflict resolution would go hand in hand.

Yet the practical experience of the Middle East leaves little reason for optimism. We need to be on guard against unreasonable expectations.

While there were several experiments with various forms of democracy - even before the military regimes that have dominated the region since the 1950s - in no case did Arab democracy show the vitality or resilience needed to survive the onslaught of social, nationalist and religious radicalism.

But there is a glimmer of hope in the form of the slow, cautious, gradual democratic experiment in the largest Arab political community: Egypt.

Other countries and communities seemed to have better prospects. Yet the Lebanese form of democratic ethnic politics collapsed in a cloud of violence, and the Algerian experiment has ground to a virtual halt in the face of the fundamentalist danger. As for Yemen, its raging civil war speaks for itself.

Egypt, in contrast, has had the longest uninterrupted national existence of any Arab country, and it has been based on very strong centralized authority.

What has made this possible is Egypt's population, which has always been concentrated on no more than 5 percent of the land along the Nile and thus easily controlled from the center.

In the Middle East, Egypt has been synonymous with centralized authority since the days of the Pharaohs to the contemporary Nasserist dictatorship.

Under Anwar Sadat, ideas of modernity, economic development, capitalism and a more open political system began to converge and reinforce one another, along with the audacious initiative for peace. Egypt has since moved slowly but consistently toward a Gaullist model of democracy.

This model is based on a strong presidency virtually unchallenged by party politics, supported by the military.

However, beyond that, there are reasonably free elections for parliament, along with a great deal of freedom of speech, assembly and organization, as well as a vigorous and vital parliamentary life that freely debates all aspects of public life - as long as the debate doesn't directly threaten the primacy of the president.

This doesn't sound like a great

The Palestinians have a model in Egypt's slow tread toward democracy

deal, particularly to those of us accustomed to the rough-and-tumble of Israeli wide-open democracy.

But it is, Egypt is a badly overpopulated country with horrendous economic problems which threaten the very fabric of the society. Its culture of poverty and low literacy are far from any social milieu that can be considered favorable to the Western form of democracy.

And when political life becomes more open, the system is open to abuse by the Islamic fundamentalists, a potent mass force in Egyptian politics.

YET EGYPT has neither given in, as Algeria seems to have, nor has it sunk into civil war, like Yemen, at horrendous human cost.

The Egyptian model seems unattractive, showing little progress on an annual basis. Yet in a broader historical perspective, Egypt has been moving away from the centralized, radical, socialist, military dictatorship it used to be, in the direction of a liberal, semi-open, peace-loving society which cannot help evoke a large measure of respect and admiration from all those who truly believe in the future of democracy in the Middle East.

Had the Egyptians given in to the temptation to do things more abruptly, to open up their system without adequate preparation and control, their experiment with "real" democracy would have gone down the drain a long time

ago. It would have given the term a bad name for another generation (which is what happened with the previous democratic experiment between virtual independence in 1946 and the military revolution of 1952).

That the Egyptians have had the good sense to avoid this by adopting an evolutionary, gradual strategy calling for patience is reason for celebration - and, more important, for imitation.

Democracy isn't some imported, intellectual fad, but a political system based on concrete social conditions.

Where these conditions do not exist, they must be created and cultivated, and as much democracy as is compatible with existing constraints must be shown to be workable.

The Egyptian virtues of common sense and patience have led the country to adopt the reasonable middle way between a sudden opening to the possible chaos of a wild fundamentalist onslaught on the one hand, and a freezing of the old regimes, waiting for the Godot of social reform on the other.

Social development and democratic reforms have gone hand in hand.

Even so, there is a long way to go. The twin pressures of fundamentalist activism and widespread poverty have put enormous stress on the system.

There is a broader lesson here. The Palestinians, who now have a chance to experiment with democracy in their self-ruled areas, would do well to heed the lesson learned over the years in the region:

Abrupt experiments which invite the forces of fundamentalist rejectionism into the mainstream of political life are bound to destroy democracy; whereas a patient evolution that maintains a measure of control over extremism while cultivating a logical and coherent avenue of democratic development has a chance of succeeding.

Israel has benefited handsomely from the relative success of the Egyptian experiment. It cannot but wish the Palestinians well, hoping that they will exhibit the same good sense, caution and moderation.

The writer is professor of political science at the University of Haifa and academic director for the Graduate Studies Program at the IDF's National Security College.

J'accuse

MEIR RONNEN

I accuse Netzer Avilon of endangering lives.

For the past year, the high-speed Tel Aviv thruway has been changing traffic lanes as work continues to widen the highway. For many months now, drivers entering the Avilon from the south in separate lanes, at an average of 90 kph, suddenly find themselves sharing the same lane. There are no warning signs.

The same applies to drivers leaving the southern end of the highway for Jerusalem, when four lanes become two without any warning, and one lane leads straight into a wall.

Previous lane markings aren't properly blacked out. Road repair vehicles are often left parked on the shoulders of the highway at night, with their wheels inside a traffic lane.

In any progressive country those responsible for this state of affairs would be sent to jail. I'd settle for some clear road markings and large signs with flashing lights.

I ACCUSE the Public Works Department and the Tel Aviv Municipality of endangering drivers by a crazy use of studs.

A case in point is the lower entry to Motza Ilt on the Jerusalem highway, where cars in a flow of traffic moving at 80-90 kph must leave the highway across a line of studs. What purpose are they

Take your life in your hands. Drive from A to B on Israel's highways

meant to serve?

In Tel Aviv, studs are used to mark pedestrian crossings on Rehov Arlosoroff. Perhaps the municipal engineers think this will keep pedestrians on the crossing. Drivers have to drive over these studs in order to continue on their way.

Studs dividing same-direction lanes on various parts of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway also endanger cars at speed, affect tires and subsequent safety performance. The studs should be on the shoulder, if anywhere.

I ACCUSE the Public Works Department of incompetence in road marking.

Highway signs that cause a driver doing 100 kph to think twice are a danger. Take the sign on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway marked "To Jerusalem," indicating that the driver should leave the road at the Ben Shimon turnoff. A subsequent, last-minute sign correctly reminds the driver that he should go straight ahead if he doesn't want to take an old road through Ben Shimon, adding 40 minutes to his journey.

Drivers leaving Jerusalem on the Tel Aviv highway soon arrive at a fine new exit clearly marked as "Moza." But there isn't any such place. There's Ramat Moza and Beit Zayit, both reached via the underpass at this exit. The turnoff to Moza Ilt, a different place altogether, lies further on.

Cars trying to return to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv via the other side of this exit find the sign 80 meters past where they must turn off, for the small sign at the first corner is one-sided and can't be read by those emerging from the underpass.

Matters aren't any better at the dangerous crossroads on the curve of the inner road leading to Maoz Zion at the summit of the Castel, where there is a sign to the small Arza complex, rather than Motza Ilt. The dangerous Seven Sisters descent, now the only way to get to Motza Ilt from the direction of Tel Aviv, has been in shocking condition for a year or more.

I ACCUSE the traffic police of totally neglecting the state of affairs on the Castel descent which culminates in the notorious Motza curve, arguably one of the most infamous in the country.

Hardly a single private vehicle or taxi (and hardly a truck) does not descend this steep gradient at less than 30 kph above the posted speed limit.

As a result, drivers trying to leave or enter Motza Ilt take their lives in their hands every time they wish to enter or cross the stream of traffic.

What's needed is a permanent police radar trap, prominently signposted, at the top of the Castel hill.

I ACCUSE the traffic police of wasting resources.

The presence of the traffic police fails to make itself felt along the entire Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. I love howling along at 100 kph on the permitted stretch, but every other car on the road passes me, breaking the speed limit. Where are the deterrents?

I am aware that the police budget is strained by security requirements. But aren't the police aware that Israeli drivers are killing and injuring far more Israelis than Hamas?

The writer is a veteran journalist and political cartoonist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRAEL-DIASPORA DIALOGUE

Sir, - I had the privilege to be invited to the President's Conference on Israel-Diaspora Dialogue, initiated by President Weizman. Mr. Weizman should get full credit for this splendid and most necessary enterprise, caused by his justified fear of the slow disappearance of the Diaspora communities due to intermarriage and assimilation.

The main benefit from this conference which brought together delegates from 30 countries was that they all could hear from one another the similarity of the problems encountered in each of the countries.

The main flaw of the conference - without doubt not the fault of the president, but of the political advisers involved - was the obvious onesidedness of outlook of those selected as speakers: they had to be doves on the "peace" process and supportive of the Peres initiatives, and - with few exceptions - secular, Conservative, Reform Jews. No wonder that they had to report frightening a rate of intermarriages, reduced or nonexistent aliyah and growing ignorance of Jewish values and history.

The opposite could have been reported by Orthodox leaders if

they had been invited to speak. Intermarriage among the Orthodox is practically nonexistent. Aliyah comes almost only from the Orthodox, at least from the US: the number of students at Orthodox day schools and yeshivot is steadily growing.

The consensus at the conference was that Jewish education in the Diaspora must be stepped up. But what kind of education? Since secular education has failed to produce Zionists, why not adopt the successful Orthodox education, with its stress on the sacred character of Israel, the holiness of every inch of Jerusalem and the exhilarating experience of re-living the age-old Jewish traditions in the ancient Jewish homeland. Youth brought up in that spirit will make the best Zionists.

DR. MANFRED R. LEHMANN
Jerusalem (Miami).

The head of the President's Bureau stated (J.P., June 22) that Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu and MK Dan Meridor, amongst others, had been invited to attend, but had declined. - Ed. J.P.

HELP FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

Sir, - I refer to BatSheva Tsor's article of June 19, "Expert warns of neglect among immigrant families."

Various educational networks, including supplementary education, run special programs for immigrant children. The programs include extra lessons and activities in the afternoon. The Ministry of Absorption subsidizes a considerable portion of these programs.

In the summer of 1994, the Department of Social Integration of the Ministry of Absorption will help about 10,000 immigrant children from the CIS and Ethiopia who live in caravan sites and also immigrant children from Ethiopia who live in permanent housing so that they can participate in summer camps. The ministry is contributing NIS 1,600,000 this year to these programs.

In addition, there will be special activities this summer for children of immigrants from the CIS in the framework of youth movements, including summer camps. The ministry has allocated an additional NIS 150,000 for this purpose, which is in addition to our regular contribution of NIS 400,000 to youth movements for activities involving new immigrant children.

Moreover, this year like every year, there will be a preparatory camp for the IDF for 5,000 immigrant youth, run jointly by the Ministry of Absorption, the Ministry of Education, the Jewish National Fund and the IDF.

Thus, there is no ground for the claim that the Ministry of Absorption is not doing anything for the care of immigrant children during the summer.

Moreover, the Ministry of Absorption and the Joint have set up support groups for single-parent families all over Israel.

Blowing up a few cases into sweeping generalizations is unfair, especially to the new immigrants whose parenting is denigrated. If there is a difference between the approach of immigrants from the CIS and veteran Israelis in the field of child upbringing, this is eventually eliminated by the process of absorption thanks to the help provided by the various organizations involved.

AMNON BEERI, Spokesman,
Ministry of Absorption
Jerusalem.

BatSheva Tsor comments:
The remarks referred to by the spokesman were made by Dr. Yitzhak Kadman, Chairman of the National Council for the Child, and do not reflect the reporter's personal views.

ENGLISH POETRY IN ISRAEL

Sir, - Voices, the Israel English Poetry Association, would like to remind seasoned, budding and aspiring poets that the fifth international poetry contest is under way. It was established in memory of Reuben Rose who devoted his life to the encouragement and promotion of English poetry in Israel.

We want challenging, humorous and curious poetry, not necessarily on Israeli subjects. Poems should be less than 40 lines each, submitted in duplicate with the entrant's name and address on a separate sheet. They will be judged anonymously by Dr. Karen Alkalay-Gut of Tel Aviv University, one-time winner of the BBC international poetry contest. First prize: US\$300; second prize US\$150; third prize US\$100; fourth prize: US\$50. - Honorable mentions.

Deadline: August 31, 1994. Cost: NIS 6/US\$2 per poem, cash or checks payable to Voices, P.O.B. 236, 18101 Kiryat Ata. You may enter as many poems as you dare. Notification to winners only, in mid-November. Winning poems will be distributed with the annual Voices anthology and a public reading of the poems will be held in Israel.

MIKE SCHEIDEMANN
"Voices" Israel
Kiryat Ata.

INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE

Sir, - Shoshana Cardin, long-time American Jewish leader, here with other leaders for conferences with Israeli leaders, is reported to have said that American Jewry is not just fodder for aliyah (June 24).

Differences on the role of the Diaspora are legitimate. Individuals are entitled to make individual decisions about aliyah. But if this quotation from Ms. Cardin is accurate, her choice of words is most unfair and even insulting.

The word "fodder" is reminiscent of the phrase "cannon fodder" with relation to discussions about war and battlefield casualties. To compare the American Jewish population as potential oil to the young people of a country destined to feed the dragons of war is horrendous. In the 46-year history of Israel, the figure of 60,000 American olim is not the area of "fodder."

American Jewry is entitled to decide its own role in Jewish history. But when the president of the Jewish state makes the obvious statement that it should be normal for a Jew to live in the Jewish state, the rejection of this axiom should not lead to such passionate and unbalanced language.

RABBI JACOB CHINITZ
Jerusalem.

POSTSCRIPTS

ALFRED MANDELLA loved his car so much that his family included it in his funeral procession. But the shiny, cream-colored sedan also looked pretty special to a thief.

The 1992 Ford "Crown Victoria" was stolen while parked outside the Worcester, Mass., church during Mandella's funeral.

Family members couldn't believe it. "I guess you have to be very careful, even at your own funeral," one mourner said.

The car was left unattended for no more than two minutes before somebody from the funeral home noticed it was gone. People at the funeral noticed a man and a woman sitting at the back of the church who were unfamiliar and inappropriately dressed.

Family members were trying to keep a sense of humor. "I have to laugh because I can't keep myself in such a sick frame of mind," Mandella's daughter said.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND brewers in Britain are teaming up to reproduce the beer drunk by the pharaohs and have dubbed it "Tutankhamun's tipple."

Brewers Scottish & Newcastle, who have sponsored excavations at an ancient Egyptian brewery, said they're planning to make ale from a 4,000-year-old recipe.

Tutankhamun's stepmother, Queen Nefertiti, is believed to have ordered the construction of

the brewery at Armana, south of Cairo on the banks of the Nile.

Today's drinkers will find ancient Egyptian beer tastes very different, as it includes palm dates and olives.

WHEN YOU buy a product, the enclosed literature should give you confidence in your new possession. It boggles the mind to consider what kind of an outfit has sold you the pair of scissors that accompanies the following guarantee:

"The only Perma Shears with a lifetime guarantee. Your Perma Shears will give you ever-lasting result. Now Perma Shears IntroduceS the ultimate guarantee of our product - a workmanship order Perma Shears today and get on Unlimited. Lifetime guarantee. Simply acted - here - S our guarantee, even if it's your fault. If Perma Shears break get damaged or cease to function - for any reason, we will replace the pair absolutely free, it's propostive of our belief in this quality products. If you ever have a need to return the Perma Shears for replacement, simply Send your name and address along with \$2. 95 for postage handling, to the address listed below. BuY with confidence and enjoy your lifetime use of Perma Shears. Today.

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FOR SOME reason, the Spastics Society, Britain's largest disability charity, voted to change its name.

From November the society will call itself Scope, an intentionally unspecific name that "doesn't stand for anything," said spokesman Paul Fawcett.

Fawcett said the organization, which provides services, housing and education for sufferers of cerebral palsy, decided two years ago "that the word spastic had degenerated into a term of abuse and had to go."

When the society was founded in 1952, "spastic" was an accepted medical description with no negative connotation. Two generations of playground putdowns changed that.

The Spastics Society decided not to incorporate "cerebral palsy" into the new name, Fawcett said, because it can be tough to pronounce and could one day itself become an abusive term.

LONDON, June 5. - Adolf Hitler has lost his standing as a vegetarian, according to Leslie Severs, newly elected secretary of the London Vegetarian Society.

"Our information," Severs said today, "shows that for some time Hitler has lived on liver extract." "As for Mussolini," he added, "he may have taken up vegetarianism on doctor's orders because of stomach trouble, but we don't regard him as a vegetarian, either."

Talia Paz goes for gold at Karmiel fest

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

In the last nine years Tel Aviv-born dancer Talia Paz has been globe-trotting in pursuit of a very specific dance career.

Two years ago, after an arduous journey, she finally reached her goal - dancing for the Stockholm-based Mats Ek's Cullberg Ballet.

Paz started at age 16, when she left Israel to study dance for two years at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague.

Upon completing her studies there, she returned home to do her military service and began dancing with the BatSheva Dance Company.

Her next step was Nils Christie's Scapino Dance Company in the Netherlands. As a member of Scapino, she came to Israel two years ago to participate in the first international Dance Competition here, in which she won the best female dancer award.

After her success at Scapino, Paz finally reached Cullberg. Last spring she was in Israel for the Cullberg Ballet's modern version of the classic *Giselle*. And now she is back here to perform in a special program at the Karmiel Dance Festival, which opens today and continues through Thursday.

Paz has nothing but praise for Cullberg and Ek.

"It's a most professional international company, and the real special thing about it is Ek himself," she said. "He has his own movement language. It's a very precise style with a lot of hand gestures."

Ek is "most interested in human material, in people, in stories and in situations," Paz said. "His works are not abstract. We are the only modern dance company that has *Giselle*, *Swan Lake* and *Carmen* in a rather modern and far from traditional manner in our repertoire, and it's always exciting."

In Ek's *Swan Lake*, Paz performs the role of the prince's mother. In this version, "the queen has a very important role," she said. "This is a very sophisticated psychological production. The prince has a mother complex, which is why my part is a major one."

In this production, the queen disguises herself as a sorcerer. In his agony and passion, the prince tears the sorcerer's clothes off only to discover the sorcerer is actually his mother.

At that very moment Paz is completely naked on stage. "It feels right; it feels needed at this specific context," she said. "It's very natural. Initially I was very afraid, but by now I actually enjoy it."

In *Giselle*, Paz performs one of the noble women in the first act and a mad woman in the second.

For Ek, there is no tradition of corps de ballet. "Each dancer portrays a character, each has his or her own role. Each dancer is important within the story."

Paz said the uniqueness of Ek's work is its drama, in addition to its movement.

"Here I can sing, I scream, there is a wide range of possibilities that does not exist in classical ballet, where there are gestures implying 'I love you,' or 'I swear to be faithful,' but nothing more."

Although Paz said she works on her Swedish, life at Cullberg is possible with English and, believe it or not, Hebrew.

Paz is one of five Israeli dancers who are members of the company. "We all came from different directions. It is really a mere coincidence, but it's nice."

And when recently Ohad Naharin, the artistic director of the BatSheva Dance Company, came to work with Cullberg, the Israelis were even happier.

But Paz suggested such trends make today's modern dance world cosmopolitan, causing many companies to lose their own identity.

"I knew that in whatever major company I'll dance, I would eventually work with Kylian, Naharin, Ek and Forsythe," she said.

And she said the modern dance world is at a crossroads in which it searches for something new.

"There are very few new things happening in dance these days," she said. "It's hard to find something new and exciting. It's a major problem."

Paz said eventually she might leave Cullberg. "Ek is no longer the artistic director, although he continues to work with the company," she said. "I'll wait and see in what direction it goes. I know that Frankfurt is somewhere I'd want to dance."

Although dance fills every moment in Paz's life at the moment, she said she will not give up family life.

"My career will never come instead of children and family. I have a life experience at home that both can happen," she said, referring to her mother Nira Paz, who was a professional dancer for three decades and now teaches.

Paz, 25, brings to Karmiel a solo from one of her favorite Ek ballets, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, based on the Lorca play by the same title.

"I'm doing the maid in this ballet, and my entrance is most dramatic as I chase this man and shout and scream in Hebrew at him," she said. "It's very theatrical and special."

It will be part of a special program in which several Israeli dancers who work abroad will present a sample of their work.

Along with Paz, her other Israeli colleagues from Cullberg will also be there, as well as dancers who perform with other companies.

This special program of Israeli dance talent at its very best is performed Thursday (11 a.m.) in Karmiel and then repeated Friday (2 p.m.) at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv.



The 11th Jerusalem Film Festival opened last week to a near-sellout crowd at the Sultan's Pool. The gala triple feature included a screening of Joel and Ethan Coen's *The Hudsucker Proxy*, a Tel Aviv Symphony Orchestra recital of Zbigniew Preisner's movie music, and a truly fiery fireworks display (several burning bushes were spotted in the vicinity). Since then, thousands have escaped into the cool to enjoy the festival's offerings. Meanwhile, outdoors, the summertime festival atmosphere prevails. The festival continues through Saturday night.

Power in a solo performance

DANCE

DORA SOWDEN

YONAT Daleski-Cohen gave a solo performance of her own choreography at the Inbal Theater on June 29, and immediately established her presence and power of communication.

In some cases, however, the impression was that she would do better to appear in the works of others, less involved in her personal experience, and to also leave it to them to choose the music.

The aria from Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly*, for instance, seemed unrelated to the movement, and "My Favorite Things" from the musical *The Sound of Music* needed a different kind of choreographic treatment.

Several of the dances were attractive, however, particularly those that dealt with the moods and games of childhood. Most notable of all was her dancing to the wondrous performance of Debussy's *Sirenes*, by the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra, and the

Collegium Musicum conducted by Bernard Haitink. In all, she demonstrated beautiful form and an extraordinary flexibility.

THE record number of public performances in theaters this season is testimony to the increasingly active interest in dance.

One healthy trend noted is the rising level of performance in classical ballet. A disturbing element is the amount of acrobatics and disco-jazz that is now included in modern dance.

Two dance schools recently offered us a glimpse into the future. The Rubin Academy High School in Jerusalem offered a program of 16 items by 10 choreographers that was notable for more than quantity. A praiseworthy level of proficiency and tempo was

demonstrated, especially in the higher grades, where the choreography by teachers paid more attention to flow of movement than to individual steps.

In Tel Aviv, the Bat-Dor Lower School, for children up to 13, marshaled a program under the title *The Circus* that allowed the young dancers to be "rabbits," "horses," "poodles," "bears" and "monkeys" - and of course clowns and acrobats and tightrope walkers - to their obvious great pleasure.

The modern tendency to neglect grace and go for action instead was evident here. The performers could all somersault and cartwheel, but didn't always seem to be listening to the music.

Over the years, Bat-Dor has been remarkably successful at turning clumsy little girls and boys

into dancers conscious of the rhythm and beauty of their bodies, but dance makers today seem to concentrate more on energy than imagination.

AT TAMARA Mielnik's school performance on June 23, the stage of the Rebecca Crown Auditorium in Jerusalem seemed too small to hold all the students who crowded onto it at the end to take their bow. They had been performing a version of *The Nutcracker* (Casse-Noisette), and if you knew the story - as most people do - they were all there: Clara and Drosselmeyer, the mice and the Sugarplum Fairy, the mother and the guests, big and small.

It didn't always hang together, but both the audience and the performers had a good time; perhaps that is all that matters at an end-of-year celebration. But the dancing of the teachers - pas-de-deux, solos - in the second half of the program, was especially good.

Final Israel Chamber Orchestra concert is its finest

Concert Roundup

ed by Roni Porat, appeared at its home base, Kibbutz Tzora, a new concert venue for Greater Jerusalem. Less than two years since its inception, the orchestra sounds firmly consolidated.

Beethoven's Quartet op. 18/4, in an orchestral arrangement by the conductor, remained faithful to the score, though losing in intimacy. Elgar's rarely performed Introduction and Allegro for String Quartet and Orchestra was rendered vividly.

This orchestra created the impression that it can be ranked among the country's best string ensembles. Hila Flitman displayed a bright, radiant soprano that still has some sharp edges in the high register.

Kibbutz Tzora, July 2.
Ury Eppstein

THE RA'ANANA Symphonette Orchestra ended its season with

style, performing a most conventional program with precision and delight for a change.

The evening opened with a captivating reading of the overture to Schumann's *Genoveva*, in which Yehoram Scharovsky, the Symphonette's music director, drew the inner beauty of the score with cohesion and aplomb, despite some poor playing from the brass in general and the horns in particular. The orchestra was much better in Schubert's fourth (Tragic) symphony. Cellist Michael Haran delivered a beguiling reading of Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* in which the orchestra accompanied him with warmth.

Yad Labanim Auditorium, Ra'anana, July 2.
Michael Ajzenstadt

ALL WAS not well at the final concert of the Haifa Symphony Orchestra's season. Under the baton of music director Stanley Sperber, the orchestra presented

Mozart's C minor Mass ("The Great") with a mediocre gigantic choral force comprising 150 singers from three local choirs and a quartet of soloists.

Soprano Cheryl Parrish, who sings most of the solos in this grandiose work, sounded as if she was sawing through the air with anger. Tenor Peter Jeffes sounded more like a baritone; only baritone Michael Burt, in a most tiny part, and mezzo-soprano Zehava Gal, way past her prime, sounded more than adequate.

But in spite of the poor choral and vocal aspects of the performance, one was able to enjoy the playing of the HSO. It was a well-balanced performance in which Sperber managed to draw a most beautiful sound from his musicians. Under Sperber the HSO was at its very best, sounding like a cohesive musical body that concludes a most impressive season.

Haifa Auditorium, July 3.
Michael Ajzenstadt

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	EYFO HAYELED	DEMONS
#2	1	ZIKNEI TZFAT	ZIKNEI TZFAT
#3	14	DAVID BROZA	MASADA
#4	16	AEROSMITH	GET A GRIP
#5	8	SHLOMO ARTZI	COMPLETE COLLECTION
#6	13	DANI ROSSA	ON THE SHOOT
#7	4	GLORIA	LIVE
#8	10	ETHNIK	YOU
#9	6	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#10	3	MARIA CAREY	MUSIC BOX
#11	5	COMPILATION	VOLUME 4
#12	18	ORIGINALS	COMPILED
#13	7	LEONARD COHEN	LIVE
#14	7	ACHINORI NINI	NINI AND DOR
#15	9	TOP POP '94	VOLUME 3

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

An old-fashioned comedy

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

THE SISTERS ROZENSWIG

By Wendy Wasserstein. Hebrew, Ehud Manor. Director, Amit Gazit. Set, Adrián Vaux. Costumes, Tzili Charney. Music, Ehud Harpaz. Lighting, Jody Superman. At the Ravina, Haifa, Habimah. Hebrew title, *He'ahavim Rozenzweig*.

Sara Miriam Zohar
Gorgos Rozina Kambois
Penny Liat Goren
Geoffrey Natan Datzner

HAVING given us Chekhov's *The Three Sisters*, Habimah follows up with yet another three. *The Sisters Rozenzweig* is also a study in intimate family relations, so it is difficult to ignore the Chekhov connection. Nor is it easy to dismiss the suspicion that the Rozenzweig trio, a glaringly trivialized Chekhov take-off churned out against a transatlantic background (Brooklyn-Kensington to be exact), aim to turn the Master into a Jewish Broadway bit.

Wasserstein has already brought that off in New York, and it is just possible that the average Israeli theatergoer, captivated by the living image of Everyman's American Cousin, will be charmed, too. Fervent feminists may identify with these feisty, flashy portraits.

But if *The Sisters Rozenzweig* proves popular here, it can only be as light, weightless summer entertainment. The Chekhov context

notwithstanding, the play is little more than sentimental, dressed-up, old-fashioned drawing-room comedy.

Flying all the flags of Brooklyn-style affluence, success and romance, it is saturated with every kind of contemporary Yiddish sentiment, including "the Israel connection."

If the American production was more authentic (though it was just as mediocre according to some who have seen it), it becomes badly distorted in translation. When "Not my cup of tea" is translated as "lo hakos tei sheli," it will not be everybody's cup of tea by any means, and certainly not for the delectation of native English speakers.

Local actors usually have trouble giving credibility to "Anglo-Saxon" characters. But here, at least four performers carry off lively impersonations. Rozina Kambois's flamboyant Gorgos steals the show with her irrepressible fun, but also with the darker depths she lends the role. Yehuda Efroni, as the debonair Mervyn, a faux furrier of Polish-Jewish origin, gives an elegant and stylish performance, too. As the two teenagers, Michal Rubin and Sharon Bar-Ziv blow a breath of fresh air through the affectations and pretensions of an otherwise preposterous family saga.

SEVEN 20th-century works, among them three by local composers, were presented in the Summer Concert of the Capriccio Ensemble, conducted by Michael Haran.

Movements for trombone (Liron Rinot), cello (Ayala Seidelman), piano (Bruce Levi), clarinet and violin by Ido Heifets, one of the younger local composers, is an imaginative study in contrasting sonorities, based mainly on variants of one frequently recurring theme. Particularly attractive was a discursive solo trombone passage.

Zohar Kahila, another little-known local composer, is more rhythmically than melodically oriented in the resourceful, sound-pillar-like conglomerates of his Wind Quintet.

The senior local composer in this program was Joseph Tal, with

IT TAKES some daring for the Jerusalem Rubin Academy's Opera Workshop, conducted by Aharon Harlap and directed by Jacobo Kaufman, to attempt a performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

One expects an academy to tackle a venture of this magnitude only if it has the vocal resources necessary among its students.

Among the female participants, Daphna Ben-David was outstanding for her pleasant and well-cultivated bright soprano. The buffo qualities of Denis Sedov's bass come close to what Leporello needs.

The demonic dimension of Don Giovanni was degraded to a mere vulgar rapist by the singing and acting of Michael Greenberg. Soprano Hagit Noam was deplorably miscast as Donna Elvira.

Jerusalem Theater, June 29.
Ury Eppstein

THE YAD HATIT Chamber Orchestra, consisting mostly of new immigrant musicians and conduct-

Paxton was on festival's top rung

JACOB'S LADDER

JOEL GORDIN

FOR a precious two hours on Friday night the Gan Hashlosha Park near Beit She'an became a coffeehouse.

More than 2,000 children of the '60s brought their own children - and grandchildren - to the Jacob's Ladder Folk Festival to hear Tom Paxton, a legend of the folk/protest era.

After 30 years Paxton's voice is still sweet, rich and reflective, and his wit is as sharp as a guitar string. Clad in jeans and his trademark Greek fisherman's cap, he was accompanied only by two guitars, his own and Shai Tuchner's. He sang most of his classics, from "Rambolin' Boy" to "The Last Thing On My Mind."

His satires on yuppies and on Hillary Clinton were hilarious and light, not heavy and intense. Even when he sang "Peace Will Come" he did not indulge in unnecessary schmaltz or platitudes.

He's been rightly called "folk-singer who sings softly and carries a big stick." His strength is in his understatement. This was Paxton's night and he kept the audience in the palm of his hand.

The Jacob's Ladder hootenanny was spread throughout the weekend on three stages, and Paxton appeared three times. In the main concert on Friday night he was admirably preceded by Susie Miller and the Country Band.

Miller and her boys in the band were in top form. Honorable mention must be made of Monni Aron (who sang with Miller in the '70s group Ahim Va'ahoyot).

After Paxton and Miller, things did not run so smoothly. The bawdy/good-time group the Taverneers have not added anything fresh to their act for the past five years.

Black Velvet, a local Irish-music group, were technically sound but lacked the punch and charisma to capture a late-night audience. Hot Licks Cookies, a skiffle-and-blues band from Newcastle, England, sounded better, but the '20s and '30s sound needs a specialized audience.

By the time honey-voiced ballad-singer Jill Rogoff made it to the podium, much of the crowd had fallen asleep. It was their loss. The late-to-sleep baggers also missed out on Sharon Katz and 'Afrika Soul, who were worth a better billing. Some, fortunately, had been able to hear Katz and her Zulu back-up singer Nonhlanhla Wanda earlier in the day.

It's also a pity a nighttime slot was not allotted to the country band Smoking Guns, whose lively, talented show was wasted on a side stage at 11 a.m. Saturday. Organizer Menahem Vinegrad deserves praise for arranging Paxton's visit and for general organization. He gets a big booby prize for not hiring a professional emcee. He did the job himself - and the show was a success in spite of this.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1994

Banks fear provident fund redemptions next week

THE commercial banks fear a wave of provident fund redemptions will hit the capital market next week in reaction to the banks' publication of yields for the first six months of 1994.

Most of the funds are expected to report very bad yields due to their investments in shares, which suffered from the slump on the stock exchange. The banks are due to publish the funds' yields for the first half of 1994 at the end of this week and start of next week.

Meir Peles, deputy managing director of Leumi Provident funds, estimated that the large funds nominal yields fell approximately 0.25% to 0.4% from the start of the year. (Real yields, which take account of inflation, will therefore be significantly worse).

According to Peles, the public took out between NIS 250 million to NIS 500m. from the provident funds during the first five months of the year. Peles emphasized that the redemptions are small in relation to

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

the sector's total assets of about NIS 90 billion.

The deputy manager said, "Some of the money withdrawn from the funds may have gone to cover credit taken out to buy stocks, while the remainder may have gone to savings programs, linked to the Consumer Price Index in addition to interest. The banks are encouraging customers to join these plans."

Peles added, "In general, I think the public considers provident funds a long-term investment. The public has not lost its trust in the funds despite the stock market crisis."

A United Mizrahi Bank source said all of the banks are preparing themselves for public redemptions next week.

"I expect massive sales to start next week after the public calculates exactly how much they have lost. The elderly have the most to

lose. You can't tell a 75-year-old man to wait five to six years until the funds performance improves," said the source. "Depending on the fund, savers with an initial investment of NIS 60,000 may have lost NIS 3,000 due to the stock market crash while others have lost NIS 20,000."

The source predicted Bank Leumi's provident funds, which are considered conservative, are expected to post the best yields for the first half of 1994. A spokesperson for United Mizrahi Bank said "Many persons are unable to redeem provident fund investments because they are obliged to invest for a 15-year period before they take their money out. But there are some redemptions, the public realizes the market situation is bad."

The spokesperson predicted Mizrahi funds redemptions to be smaller than the other banks because of the bank's good past record. Mizrahi attracted a large number of new investors at the start of 1994.

Shohat: Economy sound despite TASE's sustained fall

JOSE ROSENFELD and EVELYN GORDON

NOTWITHSTANDING the stock market's sustained fall, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday reassured the Knesset finance committee that the economy is sound.

"From the perspective of real economic activity, there is definite reason for optimism," he said.

Shohat pointed to economic indicators for 1993 and the first five months of this year, which show a flourishing economy with growing investments, expanding exports and lower unemployment.

He added that the stock market's behavior not only fails to reflect actual economic conditions, but is acting exactly counter to the positive economic trends.

Shohat said he understood the concern surrounding the stock market's performance and hopes it will ultimately reflect the economy's positive real activity.

MK Ariel Weinstein (Likud) said if the stock exchange's fall does not reflect economic realities, then it must reflect the public's lack of confidence in its economic leadership. He called on the government to resign to make room for one in whom the public would have more faith.

The economy is like a boat without a pilot," said MK Dan Tichon (Likud). "Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has become the government's spokesman on economic matters, and he relates to the bourse with an extreme lack of understanding. The government's economic policy is idiotic."



Avraham Shohat.

(Stein/Harari)

MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) called on the government to establish an "economic cabinet" headed by Rabin, which would be in charge of setting a unified economic policy. Currently, he said, the disagreements among Rabin, Shohat and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel make it difficult to implement any policy.

MK Haim Kaufman (Likud) suggested that

the committee invite Frenkel for a discussion on its "failure to supervise" the banks' policy of giving credit for the purchase of stock.

President Ezer Weizman yesterday also entered the fray, calling on the country's top economic policy makers to stop buckering, since the fighting is undermining confidence in the economy and the stock market.

"I don't accept that it is impossible under a united and coordinated economic leadership to stop the phenomenon [of a falling stock market]," Weizman said.

Shohat also defended the government's financial rescue program for local authorities. He said these efforts to resolve the serious financial crisis facing localities are unprecedented. The program includes the provision of NIS 1 billion between 1994 and 1995 to help cover the localities' deficits.

Shohat noted that the program addresses the problems of small towns and large cities, both Jewish and Arab.

Shohat said the government will introduce legislation in October that will set oversight and enforcement provisions over the local authorities' fiscal management activities.

Deputy Budget Director Shai Talmon said that in the first quarter of the year, the Treasury transferred NIS 100 million in grants to local authorities.

The Treasury is currently waiting for the committee's approval of an additional NIS 200m., NIS 100m. in grants and the remainder as loans. Talmon added that next year the Treasury will transfer an additional NIS 200m. in grants.

July 4th prompts quiet first day for continuous foreign currency trading

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANKS reported yesterday that the first day of continuous foreign currency trading was quiet mainly due to American Independence Day, which closed US currency markets.

Foreign currency dealers reported execution of a large number of transactions with customers as well as interbank transactions. The dealers said businesses shopped around among the banks throughout the business day, to get the best exchange rates.

Continuous trading allows individuals and businesses to negotiate foreign currency transactions with the banks throughout the day. The rate, which varies from bank to bank, fluctuates all day.

The banks said the first day of trading went smoothly reflecting the banks' investment in computer systems, software programs and training of workers. Some of the banks said they experienced minor

computer problems and added that not all customers were familiar with the new trading method.

A United Mizrahi bank spokesman said "everyone has to learn the new trading method, we need to get experience."

Ilan Raviv, manager of Bank Discount's foreign currency dealing room, said: "It was a hectic day for the bank and quiet for the market. There was moderate selling in our bank. The rate of the dollar in the world was stable but because of selling here, the rate drifted down."

"It was good to open trading on the 4th of July, since the world was quiet. We only concentrated on the local market. I don't think the Bank of Israel intervened. The Bank of Israel asked for quotes throughout the day just so that they could get a feel for the market," added Raviv.

Panel encourages competition between gas stations

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset economics committee yesterday unanimously voted to abolish a rule requiring a minimum distance between gas stations.

The decision, part of a bill by MK Dan Tichon (Likud) to encourage greater competition, will be brought to the plenum for a second and third reading later this month.

At present, gas stations must be at least two kilometers apart within cities and 25 kilometers apart in non-urban areas.

Although the committee's move was supported by Energy Minister Moshe Shohat, the Interior Ministry opposed it on the grounds that abolishing the minimum distance would make it difficult to do coherent regional and national planning.

The remainder of Tichon's bill

would limit long-term supply contracts between gas stations and gas companies. These contracts are often in force for 30 years or more - a fact which newcomers to the gas business say makes it impossible for them to compete, since so few contracts are up for renewal every year.

Tichon's bill would limit all new contracts to a maximum of nine years. Existing contracts would expire 14 years from the date on which they were signed.

Committee chairman Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) said the committee is still hoping the stations and gas companies will come to some kind of agreement on terminating the long-term contracts themselves, thereby making this pro-

position of the bill unnecessary.

There appears to be a "good chance" this will happen, he said.

If not, however, the committee is scheduled to continue voting on Tichon's bill tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Shohat has also proposed a bill to deal with the problem of long-term contracts, which is slated to be approved by the ministerial committee on legislation next week.

Shohat's bill would limit new contracts to only five years, but would allow existing contracts to remain in force until the year 2000 if a company invested in the station's equipment, or until 2020 if the company actually leased the land for the station.

Unless an agreement between

the companies and the station owners renders any legislation superfluous, Shohat has asked the committee to wait on Tichon's bill until his own is ready, saying the government will not support any private initiatives on this subject.

However, Hanegbi has said he intends to pass something this month, and will not wait for the government bill if it isn't ready by then.

After being approved by the ministerial committee on legislation, Shohat's bill would have to pass a first reading in the Knesset. It would then be sent to the economics committee and combined in some fashion with Tichon's bill, after which the joint product would be sent to the plenum for its second and third reading.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Apple, pear imports to be allowed: In light of the shortage of fruit this season controlled import of apples and pears will be permitted provided plant protection conditions are met. Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tsuri said yesterday. Tsuri added that the plant protection division had ruled out the import of soft fruit.

Burger Ranch to sue: Burger Ranch has announced its intentions to sue Taste of Israel for \$1.5 million. The suit claims Taste of Israel did not fulfill its obligation to Burger Ranch by executing a private placement as part of a share swap between the two companies. Taste of Israel has announced it has received TASE authorization for the placement and will take legal action to receive the Burger Ranch shares due according to the terms of the agreement.

Fibronics to the US: Fibronics will outfit US computer firm Sun Microsystems with 100 management network systems per year, to be marketed OEM. The company's initial first order is valued at \$100,000.

Harsit signs \$10m. deal: Harsit has signed a long term agreement valued at \$10 million, for providing sand to glass manufacturer Phenecia America-Israel and Phenecia Glass Containers.

Israeli telecom services for Colombia: Israel software houses TTI and RTS will provide telecommunications management and control systems for Medellin, Colombia. The project, which will serve some 1 million subscribers, is valued at \$2 million.

Team subsidiary TTI's NETRAC system will provide network management technology.

Elite raises coffee prices by 15 percent this month

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ELITE Industries increased the price of its coffee by some 15 percent at the beginning of July, in reaction to the sharp rise of world coffee prices.

The price of coffee on commodity markets has soared since the start of the year. The rise is mainly due to frost in Brazil and Colombia, two of the world's largest coffee exporters. The frost has ruined coffee crops and drained stocks.

"World coffee prices rose by 110% between January and June. We haven't forced the retail price of coffee up by the full amount. Leading overseas companies have raised their prices much more than we have," said an Elite spokesperson.

Elite increased the price of its coffee by only 10% from the start of the year to June.

Officials of Osem, the country's other large coffee distributor, said the company would follow developments in Brazil and decide by how much to increase prices.

Future looks brighter for Palestinian farmers

JOSE ROSENFELD

AGRICULTURAL produce from Judea, Samaria and Gaza was unchanged last year and stood at NIS 1.5 billion, comparable to 17 percent of Israeli output, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

About 73% of agricultural produce originated in Judea and Samaria and the remaining 27% came from Gaza. The Palestinians in the territories produced 470,000 tons of vegetables and potatoes, amounting to 40% of Israel's output of these goods.

Despite a significant fall in the olive harvest last year in Judea and Samaria, from 170,600 tons in 1992 to only 6,000 tons, the Palestinians were able to maintain their

overall production levels by increasing other crops.

An-Najah University economics professor Hisham Hawartani explained that the relative contribution of the olive crop to the economy has been steadily declining in the past five years. Instead, market-oriented branches are growing. Vegetable, poultry and livestock farming have increased substantially and become the backbone of the Palestinian agriculture, said Hawartani.

The change reflects a shift in the Palestinians' target market. Ten years ago, a third of all the surplus produce was exported mainly to Jordan and other Arab countries, said Hawartani. Currently, exports to Jordan have dropped from 240,000 tons a year to about 35,000 tons and Israel has become the main export market.

Hawartani noted that this was the case until five months ago when the government imposed a closure on the territories. Although officially the produce is not allowed to be sold in Israel, it was possible to smuggle it through. "Israel rarely tried to obstruct the flow, usually turning a blind eye," said Hawartani.

However, since the closure, virtually no produce is finding its way into Israel. As a result, the prices of vegetables and eggs have tumbled down dramatically in the

territories.

"In the West Bank, cucumber and tomato prices have dropped to NIS 5 for 12 kg., which hardly covers the cost of water and harvesting," said Hawartani. Similarly, eggs are going for NIS 4 for a carton of 30. Hawartani noted that prices have never been so low.

If the Paris economic agreement is implemented, prices will rise overnight, he added.

Hawartani expects that with the appointment of the Palestinian Authority's cabinet today in Jericho, somebody will be charged with the agriculture portfolio which will enable the Palestinians to implement the agreement with Israel.

Hawartani was somewhat surprised that there was no agriculture portfolio in the cabinet and speculated that it has been left open for a member of the opposition. He expects that in the meantime, it will be managed by Economy Minister Abu Ala (Ahmed Oria).

Excluding olives, agricultural production in Judea and Samaria increased 8% last year after rising 6% in 1992. Similarly livestock and livestock product farming rose 7% following a 4% increase in 1992. In Gaza, agricultural production rose 4% after shooting up 12% in 1992. By contrast, livestock and livestock product farming fell 5% after rising at a rate of 11% a year since 1986.

Survey: Most Israelis use credit cards

RACHEL NEIMAN

APPROXIMATELY six out of 10 Israeli adults carry credit cards and they make an average of eight credit card purchases per month, making Israeli the second most frequent users in Europe, after Iceland, according to Israel Credit Cards (ICC) which issues Visa cards here.

Projections indicate that by the year 2000, nine out of 10 adults will carry credit cards, ICC managing director Ya'acov Dior said yesterday. One quarter of all retailers accept credit cards, with that number expected to rise to two-thirds by the end of the century. Israelis currently hold some 350,000 out of a total of 333 million Visa credit cards world-wide.

ICC's 1994 first-quarter statistics show that 40% of all credit card purchases were for food and gas, 15% for clothes and shoes, 10% for entertainment and vacations, 10% on furniture, electrical and electronic goods and 25% on various other items.

ICC is currently working with Elbit on a project that will offer consumer new and different ways to use their plastic. Shopping and services will be offered through an interactive system (TVTEL), with purchases automatically debited from their accounts. ICC is currently negotiating for operating rights for the home shopping network.

Plans presented for redevelopment of IMI land

JOSE ROSENFELD

INITIAL plans to turn 5,000 dunams owned by Israel Military Industries in the Sharon and Nof Yam areas into residential, industrial and tourist projects, were presented yesterday to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

The plans, drawn by an inter-ministerial committee headed by Yehzekel Hamelech, call in the Sharon area for 2,350,000 square meters for construction. Of that area, 1,300,000 square meters will

be set aside for industry, creating up to 50,000 jobs, 700,000 square meters for housing and 270,000 square meters for public buildings.

In Nof Yam, the plans call for 700 housing units and 1,500 hotel rooms.

Shohat expressed satisfaction at the early completion of planning and directed the committee to continue its work to continue with the project.



Yossi Sarid.



Adi Amora.

(Israel Sun)

burn low-sulfur fuels and is preparing to invest hundreds of millions more, as it has at the Rutenberg power station, to enable power plants to meet future environmental standards.

"The financing of these tremendous sums of money is likely to come from one of two sources - either raising prices or increasing the quantities sold. Therefore the campaign 'Going for electricity' permits [the company to go for] the second option."

He said the campaign promoted optimal use of the investments which had already been made.

In response to the tone of Sarid's letter, Amora asked whether the minister would also consider asking for a ban on advertising campaigns for cars, chemical detergents and fruits and vegetables grown with chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

Most of the country's leading environmental groups have also complained about the IEC ads.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (4.7.94)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.500	3.575	4.500	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.000	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.250	3.275	3.500	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.250	3.275	3.500	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.900	0.925	0.975	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.7.94)				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.3250	3.3730	2.96	3.3502
German mark	3.0108	3.0534	1.85	3.0330
French franc	1.8865	1.9132	1.85	1.9000
Pound sterling	4.5308	4.5881	4.54	4.5843
Japanese yen (100)	0.5529	0.5587	0.55	0.5547
Dutch florin	0.0413	0.0419	2.89	0.0414
Swiss franc	1.9907	2.0474	1.85	1.9934
Spanish peseta	2.2458	2.2775	2.21	2.2681
Italian lira (1,000)	0.3821	0.3872	0.38	0.3857
Scandinavian krona	0.4315	0.4378	0.42	0.4349
Denmark krona	0.4822	0.4870	0.47	0.4840
Finnish mark	0.5881	0.5971	0.56	0.5900
Canadian dollar	2.1771	2.2078	2.14	2.1938
Australian dollar	2.2010	2.2320	2.15	2.2158
S. African rand	0.8231	0.8347	0.85	0.8294
Belgian franc (10)	0.9184	0.9284	0.90	0.9218
Austrian schilling (10)	2.6805	2.7184	2.64	2.7000
Italian lira (1,000)	1.8026	1.8295	1.86	1.8153
Scandinavian krona	—	—	4.23	4.3220
Swiss franc	—	—	0.81	0.8191
Yen (100)	3.8071	3.8580	4.48	4.5899
Spanish peseta (100)	4.5705	4.6351	4.74	4.8088
Israeli shekel	2.8807	2.9220	2.29	2.3048

* These rates vary according to bank. — Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Elkanit Pituach starts marketing 120 apartments in Netanya

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ELKANIT Pituach, a member of the Elrov group, has started marketing 120 apartments in a new development in Netanya for the elderly.

The Nofci Hasharon building, a sheltered apartment house for senior citizens, is situated on top of the city's Hasharon Shopping Mall.

The eight-floor building offers its inhabitants a wide range of services, including around-the-clock security and personal care by a qualified nurse.

Residents can also take advantage of medical and welfare services, maintenance and cleaning services and daily social activities, such as lectures and tours.

The building includes a cafeteria, dining hall, library, synagogue and therapeutic facilities.

"The fact that it is built on the top of Hasharon Mall paves the way for residents to have an active social life," Elkanit general manager Shmuel Ben-Moshe said. "Residents can take

advantage of the nearby shops, cafes, restaurants and cinemas."

The building includes five types of one- and two-room apartments.

Africa Israel reported a 300 percent growth in the number of apartments sold to 687 in the first half of the year from 230 in the corresponding period last year.

Africa Israel sold 1,080 apartments in 1993.

The company's sales turnover in the first half of the year rose to \$126m, from \$35m. Africa Israel general manager Shlomo Gorfman said.

The price of the cheapest apartment sold during the first half of the year was \$110,000, including VAT, for a four-room cottage apartment in Yokneam Elite.

The most expensive apartment sold was a penthouse in Ramat Aviv for \$1.5m. Africa Israel sold 379 apartments available in the Neveh Savion development in Or Yehuda, 120 apartments in the Kiryat Savion development in Yehud and 34

apartments in the Savionai Gan in Ramat Gan.

T.G.I., a subsidiary of Shaked Nethanel, has won tenders valued at NIS 31m. The company plans to construct an office building in Haifa at a total investment of NIS 26m.

The building will include a three-floor underground parking lot, in addition to 15 office floors.

T.G.I. also won a contract to construct a 3,000 sq.m. storage building for Polycond Shafayim at a total investment of NIS 5m.

Tivoli has invested NIS 5m, in construction of a new division at its plant in Kibbutz Lohamei Hageta'ot. The company invested in renovation of its production line and development of new production technologies.

Bayside (Gav-Yam) has started construction of the first building in the framework of the Caesarea Industrial Park.

Approximately \$45m. will be invested in the park on a 95-dunam plot. The park will consist of 70,000 sq.m. of building space.

Solei Boneh won the tender to construct the first building in the park. The 4,000 sq.m. building will be rented out at between \$5 and \$6 per square meter.

Oceana Marine Research has recently published a tender to receive contractors proposals to build a building frame for a high-tech building in Rosh Ha'yin.

The 7,000 sq.m. building will be sold and rented out. Oceana will invest \$4.5m in the building.

Algom has sold 33 villas available in the Givat Broshim development in Ramat Gan.

The developers plan to construct 80 villas of 200 sq.m. to 300 sq.m., each on a half a dunam plot. The price of the villas

ranges from \$580,000 to \$700,000.

The Hamami Brothers plan to start construction of a new housing development in Yavne during the next few weeks.

Savionai Yavne will consist of 350 housing units and public buildings.

The first construction stage involves building the first three of 30 tower buildings.

R.A.S.L. Holdings has purchased 100 dunams of agricultural land in the Aven Yehuda settlement near Netanya at a total investment of \$1.7m.

The company hopes to receive approval to construct on the plot commercial buildings and a community services center, such as a synagogue and kindergartens.

Haifa contractor Robert Billa has purchased plots in Haifa and Nahariya at a total investment of \$1.2m.

Billa plans to construct a three-floor apartment block in the center of the Carmel and a five-floor building in Nahariya.

FTSE Index closes 34 points higher in thin trading

LONDON - Share prices closed firm, supported by equity futures and gilt gains, but volumes were low in the absence of US markets due to the Independence Day holiday.

The FTSE 100 share index closed 34 points up at 2,970.4.

FRANKFURT - German shares held early gains to close the bourse session higher in what dealers called minimal activity.

Shares were seen holding gains but moribund in post-bourse, as investors held off to assess tomorrow's US FOMC meeting, which is expected to give clues to US rate direction.

The DAX-30 Index ended at 2,054.40, up 17.88 points.

PARIS - After spending most of the session in positive territory, French shares ended weaker, as news that Alcatel Alsthom chairman Pierre Suard had been arrested for questioning hit the market, dealers said.

The CAC-40 Index ended down 6.68, at 1,866.18.

ZURICH - Swiss shares edged higher on low volume. Dealers said major investors kept to the sidelines and professional buying met an empty market.

The broad SPI closed up 25.97 at day's high of 1,743.31.

TOKYO - A lack of fresh bad news, after last week's flood of negative news, prompted some domestic investors to buy and left Tokyo shares ahead at the close.

But the day was dull, with most investors sidelined by the yen's continued strength against the dollar.

The Nikkei ended up 88.52 points at 20,631.93.

HONG KONG - Stocks ended little changed and turnover shrank to a 18-month low with sentiment dampened by interest rate fears and new trading rules.

The Hang Seng Index ended down 6.09 points at 8,628.28.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market mirrored recent gains on Wall Street to close decidedly firmer after a solid day of trade.

The All Ordinaries Index gained 21.3 points to 1987.1, only marginally below its intraday high of 1988.6.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares finished up across the board after a generally slow day of trade saw counters edge firmer amid cautious optimism that world stocks were showing signs of sustained strength.

The Overall Index closed 53 points better at 5,454, industrial index was up 56 at 6,289 and gold index up 36 points to 2,163.

No end in sight for bear market

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO



Two-Sided Index

THERE is no end in sight to the present bear market.

The Two-Sided Index crossed the 150 line southwards and closed at 148.01, down 3.4%.

The Maof declined 2.75% and the Karam was down 3.5%.

Turnover was higher at NIS 227 million.

The mutual funds have been for some time beset by a huge wave of redemptions.

It is estimated that those amounted yesterday to close to NIS 200m.

The public is simply fed up and dumps its mutual funds, particularly those of the Hapoalim and Leumi groups.

Opposite this trend stood the provident funds, which did what they have been doing for the past months - buying selectively.

They do it when prices have sufficiently declined to make it interesting to buy. They do not try to act as market makers or market supporters. They are looking for bargains.

This convergence of wills - those willing to sell at any price, and those willing to buy at the right price - led to a rise in turn-overs by more than half what we had been accustomed in recent weeks.

The stock market ignored completely reassuring statements - that the economy is far stronger than what the market is showing - by various personalities, ranging from President Ezer Weiz-

Maof Index

man to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

The truth is that all economic indicators are pointing in the wrong direction, or at least, are pointing nowhere.

In any case, what investors on the stock exchange are waiting for, like besieged cowboys waiting for the cavalry, is for someone to start stabilizing the market.

The technical analysts who had been arguing that 150 was likely to turn into a support level are now looking at 140-145 as the next level.

Considering that the market did not even pause at 150, one wonders what kind of support level this was supposed to be.

There were only six stocks which rose in price on the Two-Sided market.

Declines outnumbered the rises by a ratio of 14 to 1.

Bank shares continued to be the object of selling pressure, as the expectations are that their second quarter profits are likely to be lower, if not much lower.

First International Bank 1 and 5 declined respectively by 4.7% and 6.5%; FIBI was down 7%, Bank Leumi dropped 8.9%, Hapoalim 7.9% and Maritime Bank fell 1.5%.

Other significant declines: Elbit was down 5%. Agis decreased 6.5%, Koor fell 3.3%. Discount Investment was down 4% and Clal Electronics fell 3.5%.

Japan current account surplus shrinks in May

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan's mammoth surplus in its current account - the broadest measure of trade in goods and services - shrank to \$2.7 billion in May from \$9.35b.

A year earlier, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

The surplus in trade alone fell to a seasonally unadjusted \$8.4b, in May from \$9.95b, a year earlier.

Economists said the figures were likely to keep shrinking, but added that might not be enough to take off the heat from Tokyo's trade partners for more surplus-cutting measures.

In April, the current account surplus climbed more than 22 percent, ballooning to \$13.98b, from \$11.4b, a year earlier, but private economists had expected it to fall to around \$8b, in May.

The fresh figures come as Japan's new government, headed by Socialist chief Tomiichi Murayama and backed by the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), prepares for the Group of Seven (G7) summit in Naples on July 8-10.

Japanese leaders will be hoping to get other G7 partners to agree to take steps to halt the dollar's latest slide against the yen, which has taken the US currency below 100 yen for the first time in the post-World War II era.

Other major nations, meanwhile, will urge Japan to take steps to boost domestic demand and cut its surplus, including income tax cuts and higher public spending, economists said.

"Growth in Japan's current account surplus appears to have peaked, but foreign nations are

probably looking at the surplus as still at high levels," said an economist at Yamaichi Research Institute.

"With only one month or two of [year-on-year] reductions [in the current account surplus], other nations will keep up their requests to Japan, such as cutting taxes and increasing public spending," said an economist at Tokai Bank.

A Finance Ministry official said the current account surplus was on a declining trend in both yen and dollar terms.

"The declining trend in Japan's current account surplus in yen terms is becoming a pattern," he told reporters, adding the dollar surplus was also falling but might show monthly upward blips because of exchange rate volatility.

The May current account surplus fell to 906 billion yen from 1.03 trillion yen a year earlier.

Behind the declining surplus are rising imports stemming from growing consumer demands for cheaper goods, and slowing exports as a strong yen makes Japanese goods more expensive abroad.

A rising yen, however, can cause the surplus to rise in dollar terms while it falls in yen because it inflates the dollar value of exports even as it dampens export volume.

Also yesterday, the ministry said Japan's current account surplus with Southeast Asian nations exceeded that with the US in 1993 for the first time.

Japan's current account surplus with Southeast Asia jumped to \$56.90b. in 1993 from \$43.60b.

WORLD BRIEFS

Italy's inflation dips to 25-year low: Italian inflation, once one of the highest in the Western world, has been cut back to a 25-year low of 3.7 percent, the National Statistics Office ISTAT said yesterday.

Deutsche managers lose jobs over collapse of Schneider: Four Deutsche Bank executives have lost their jobs over the collapse of the real estate empire of Dr. Juergen Schneider AG, the bank said yesterday.

Deutsche Bank said the supervisory board of its mortgage unit Deutsche Zentralbodenkredit-AG accepted the resignation of two Centralboden management board members, Juergen Huvendick and Detlev Rode.

Australia government to float Qantas in first half of '95: The Australian government will sell its 75 percent stake in national carrier Qantas Airways Ltd through a public float in the first half of next year, Finance Minister Kim Beazley said yesterday.

The float, expected to raise about A\$2 billion (US\$1.5 billion), was first announced in June 1992 and originally scheduled for the year to the end of last month.

But Qantas' weak trading performance and a lackluster aviation market forced the government last year to reschedule it for 1994/95.

Alcatel chairman held for questioning, shares slump: Police arrested the head of one of France's largest companies yesterday, but would not say why. Alcatel Alsthom, the electrical engineering and telecommunications giant, said its chairman Pierre Suard was arrested for questioning by police yesterday.

Neither the police nor justice sources would immediately say why he was detained.

France-Info radio said it was part of a probe into the use of company funds to install a security system at his home in the fashionable Neuilly suburb of Paris.

Russia's monthly inflation falls to 4.8%: Russia's monthly inflation fell to 4.8 percent in June, the lowest since prices were freed in January 1992 and well below the 8.1% in May, the State Statistics committee said.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading				Two-sided trading							
				AFTERNOON				MORNING			
				Name	Price	% Change	Volume	Name	Price	% Change	Volume
Commercial Banks				bankleumi	948	-2.5	3600	948	-2.2	17765	Shares
				national	1728	-4.0	76800	1710	-5.0	31202	
				walston	92749	-1.5	945	90630	-3.7	131	
				Abqay	468	-10.0	1110000	347	-10.1	47	
				Abqay	468	-3.7	243000	50.0	-2.5	44352	
				Adcom	50.0						
				Akhe O	270396	-3.7	435	270396	-2.0	256	
				Agan	250454	-2.5	380	250454	-0.7	289	
				Agan	250454	-2.5	380	250454	-2.3	10480	
				Agr	1586	-5.5	18000	1582	-6.7	18070	
				Agr	1586	-4.7	12500	480	-8.9	19792	
				Alfa	87.7	-8.7	8400	87.7	-8.7	8400	
				Azarin	3376	-3.5	54400	3366	-1.0	27956	
				ALPM	11683	-5.5	8380	11683	-3.0	1295	
				Alfa	87.7	-8.7	8400	87.7	-8.7	8400	
				Boulo	196.5	-4.0	56000	196.5	-10.0	120771	
				Cables	1497	-2.0	38000	1499	-2.5	28863	
				Cal Com	13342	-0.2	300	13375	-1.7	1379	
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Dutch outclass Ireland

Romania sends Maradona-less Argentina home

ORLANDO (Reuters) - The Netherlands rekindled memories of their heyday of a generation past and stamped their class on a 2-0 win over Ireland which swept them into the last eight of the World Cup yesterday.

Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk netted the first-half goals which led them out of the second round and into the quarter-finals for the first time since the zenith of their two appearances in the final in 1974 and 1978.

Ireland battled back gamely in the second half and tried valiantly to get back on terms. But their limitations had been exposed and their brave World Cup odyssey, which had begun with a fairy tale win over Italy in Giants Stadium, ended in the steamy Citrus Bowl of Orlando.

Bergkamp grabbed the first goal in the 11th minute and Jonk blasted in the second in the 41st, dealing Ireland a mortal blow which goalkeeper Pat Bonner should not have allowed.

Bonner, extending his record of Irish caps to 77, put his hands to Jonk's searing drive from 25 meters but failed to keep the ball out of his net.

The two-goal interval advantage was no more than the Dutch deserved as their lively forwards exposed the shortcomings of the Irish defense.

Manager Dick Advocaat had flirted with the idea of fielding just two men up front but changed his mind after the experiment failed to work over the weekend.

That was just as well for the Dutch, whose wingers are rightly feared by many opponents, and Marc Overmars - whose place on the right flank had appeared most under threat - more than justified his inclusion.

Overmars, a pocket-sized dynamo, was a constant threat with his lively turn of pace and left defender Phil Babb for dead on a raid down the right with the game just 10 minutes old.

Overmars, who had come close himself three minutes earlier, cut into the box and crossed to Bergkamp who side-footed his shot home for his second goal of the tournament.

Jonk, who netted Netherlands' first



MANNING THE BARRICADES - Netherlands Frank Rijkaard (top) heads the ball away from Ireland's Paul McGrath as Dutch goalkeeper Ed de Goeij looks on.

in the opening 2-1 win over Saudi Arabia, again showed his menace in a foraging run from the deep and let rip with the scorching drive which beat the hapless Bonner.

The Dutch could have scored more, with Frank Rijkaard just failing to reach a Bergkamp cross with Bonner beaten in the 22nd minute and second-half substitute Bryan Roy blasting over nine minutes from time after the goalkeeper had failed to hold a Bergkamp shot.

But Ireland, never a side to give up and driven on from midfield by Roy Keane, Ray Houghton and their colleagues, gave the Dutch their share of anxious moments after the break as they poured forward in desperate search of a goal.

nament after testing positive for banned drugs. Argentina was destroyed by the opportunity of Dumitrescu. His goals in the second round helped Romania secure a place in the last eight of the tournament for the first time.

They now play Sweden in the last eight in three of the last four World Cup finals, did not go without a fight.

They canceled out Dumitrescu's 11th minute opening goal with a Gabriel Batistuta penalty five minutes later.

After falling 2-1 behind to an 18th minute Dumitrescu goal and then 3-1 behind to a Hagl strike after 57 minutes, they never stopped playing attacking soccer.

Batistuta gave Argentina hope with a second 15 minutes from time but Romania held out for a well-worked despite the absence of Maradona, watching from a television commentary position, and their injured influential Claudio Caniggia. Argentina settled first. Their bright start belied the trauma they have gone through since Maradona's positive dope test.

But the Romanians took early control with a goal from their first chance. Fernando Caceres conceded an 11th minute free kick for fouling Tibor Selymes and Dumitrescu scored direct from the kick with a curling right-foot shot.

Argentina equalized five minutes later when Daniel Prodan brought down Batistuta in the box. Batistuta got up to take the penalty himself, sending goalkeeper Florin Prunea the wrong way from the spot for his fourth goal of the finals.

The scoring continued two minutes later when Hagl split the square-looking Argentine defense with a delightful through ball which Dumitrescu sweetly sidefooted past Luis Islas.

Romania's next goal in the 58th minute saw Dumitrescu return the compliment to Hagl, who gave Islas no chance for his third goal of the tournament.

But Argentina refused to go down without a fight and after Abel Balbo scored their second in the 75th minutes they laid siege to the Romanian goal for much of the rest of the match.

Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu said: "This is the greatest event celebrated by our people since the revolution. 'This is surely also the greatest moment in Romania's soccer history."

World Cup at a Glance

(all times Israel)

SECOND ROUND

Yesterday's results:

Netherlands 2, Ireland 0 (Orlando)

Saturday's results:

Romania 3, Argentina 2 (Pasadena)

Last night's scheduled game:

Brazil-USA (Stanford)

Today:

Nigeria-Italy 20:05 (Foxboro)

Mexico-Bulgaria 23:30 (East Rutherford)

Argentina blames conspiracy for defeat

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Argentines clutched at conspiracy theories on Sunday as they searched in consternation for excuses for their second-round knockout from the World Cup finals.

Commentators and other Argentines blamed their 3-2 defeat by Romania on FIFA, soccer's governing body, after their inspirational captain Diego Maradona was booted out of the tournament for taking banned drugs.

"They didn't beat us on the pitch. We were beaten off the pitch, and that is what hurts my

soul," said Maradona, who was commenting from Pasadena for Argentina's Channel 13.

Maradona took up commenting three days after FIFA ejected him from the tournament after finding traces of five performance-enhancing drugs in a urine sample.

"You heard what Diego said, we were beaten off the pitch, somebody booted us," said Juan Carlos Morales a commentator for Radio America, which re-broadcast Maradona's words.

Speaking to Argentine television, coach Alfio

Basile said the team was packing its bags to go

home. "This isn't the time to speak. It's over. The saddest moment is right now. In two days, this team has been wiped out," Basile said.

The comments echoed national disbelief that Argentina, twice world champions, had been knocked out so early in the tournament.

Minutes after the match, dejected fans slunk away from a plaza in downtown Buenos Aires where they normally gather for celebrations when their side wins.

"It's very quiet here. Everyone is going home to try to swallow this defeat," a fan said.

Dodgers rude to Valenzuela

LOS ANGELES - A more sedate version of "Fernandocrazia" revisited Dodger Stadium when Fernando Valenzuela returned to the scene of his greatest glory in a Philadelphia Phillies uniform.

While a sellout crowd of 54,167 welcomed an old friend and hero in Valenzuela, the Dodgers weren't so kind. Orel Hershey beat his former teammate with seven innings of four-hit ball in the Dodgers' 3-1 victory on Sunday.

Hershey (5-4) gave up four hits and an unearned run in seven innings, striking out two and walking four, in winning consecutive starts for the first time this season.

Valenzuela (0-1) lasted six innings before he was lifted for pinch hitter Jim Eisenreich, who grounded into an inning-ending double play with the bases loaded. He gave up two runs and six hits, struck out one and walked none in his second start for the Phillies.

Padres 7, Mets 0

Andy Benes was a one-man show for host San Diego, pitching his first career one-hitter, matching his career high with 13 strikeouts and hitting a three-run double.

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Former Deri aide convicted of bribery

RAINE MARCUS

ZVI Jacobson, Shas Party secretary and a former aide to Arye Deri, was convicted of giving bribes by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

He was acquitted on three other charges of fraud, accepting bribes and breach of trust.

"I find it strange that I should be found guilty for helping people," said the 35-year-old Jacobson after the verdict. "But I will continue helping people." Jacobson had denied all the charges, claiming he merely wanted to help people in need.

Jacobson was found guilty of giving bribes to Lt.-Col. George Granat, formerly of the IDF Conscription Office, so the latter would issue IDF exemption certificates to yeshiva students returning from abroad.

In return, Jacobson arranged work for Granat's wife, Yosefina, at the Ramat Gan Municipality. He also prevented her dismissal when the municipality was firing employees. Rather than being fired, Yosefina Granat was promoted. The

prosecution also claimed Jacobson had asked Deri, when the latter was interior minister, to assist in securing Granat's promotion to colonel.

Granat has already been tried for his part in the matter; he was acquitted on bribery charges, but found guilty of behavior not befitting an IDF officer.

The case surfaced in 1990, when police searched Jacobson's office for documents pertaining to money transferred by Shas to various institutions. Detectives found incriminating letters: one to Deri from Jacobson asking him to consider Granat's promotion and another to Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar asking him not to fire Yosefina Granat.

In convicting Jacobson of giving bribes, Judge Oded Mudrich said that while the accused's altruistic deeds were in many cases worthy of praise, in this case, "the prosecution proved that the veil of good deeds was only superficial, covering up hidden criminal intent."

A pre-sentencing hearing was scheduled for July 14.

Yair Levy witness acquitted of perjury

RAINE MARCUS

NISSIM Ben-Shimon, a rabbinical court judge, was acquitted by Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday on charges of giving false evidence in former MK Yair Levy's trial two years ago.

Levy was tried, convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment for stealing funds from Shas's El Hamayan non-profit association.

In July 1992, Ben-Shimon, 54, gave evidence in the city's district court pertaining to money he received for charity from Levy. But the prosecution claimed that his testimony in court contradicted statements given to other organizations and police. In 1991, said the prosecution, Ben-Shimon denied receiving money from Levy.

"The accused gave contradictory evidence with the intent to deceive," said the prosecution, who

added that as a rabbinical court judge Ben-Shimon is very familiar with legal proceedings.

During a conversation with the prosecutors during Levy's trial, Ben-Shimon told them he had made a mistake.

In exonerating Ben-Shimon, Judge Mira Lidsky said that after examining the evidence "it is clear that there are minor contradictions in the accused's testimonies. But he also knew that his evidence in Yair Levy's trial would not lead to the latter's acquittal."

Prosecution evidence had left her in doubt whether Ben-Shimon acted in good faith, she added, but his explanations about contradictions could be interpreted as logical.

Lidsky could not find sufficient evidence to convict Ben-Shimon beyond reasonable doubt, and thus acquitted him on all charges.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and MK Haim Ramon sign the Histadrut coalition agreement between Labor and Ram yesterday, as Tourism Minister Uzi Baram looks on.

Ram, Labor sign coalition agreement

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

RAM and Labor yesterday initiated a Histadrut coalition agreement, thus ensuring MK Haim Ramon's election as Histadrut secretary-general at today's Histadrut convention in Jerusalem.

The question of the distribution of positions in the Histadrut leadership, however, is still unresolved. Outgoing Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld, who was angling for the No. 2 position in the labor federation despite Ramon's opposition, was rumored to be planning to boycott today's convention, to protest what he considers Labor's total surrender to all of Ramon's demands.

Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zivli said that despite the differences still remaining between Ram and Labor, it was decided to sign the agreement "to enable an orderly and proper

transferring of leadership in the Histadrut. The agreement includes one principle which we insisted on, to the effect that there would be no blacklisting or dismissals for political or personal reasons."

Ramon, giving an emotional speech at the signing ceremony in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office, said he was eagerly anticipating assuming the position "which few had believed I could achieve, once I had made the decision to run for Histadrut elections."

"I'm certainly moved. This is a rare opportunity in the life of a political person, to realize things he believes in so much... I will try to get this cart called the Histadrut - which is vital to Israeli society -

out of the deep mud it is stuck in and turn it into a good racing car."

The version of the coalition guidelines signed yesterday includes commitments to, among other things, the adequate representation of the worker, widening the circle of Histadrut members to include the self-employed and people on personal contracts, pensioners and students, and opening Histadrut institutions to scrutiny by the state comptroller "in accordance with international treaties."

However, Histadrut sources noted yesterday that the international treaties referred to expressly forbid the intervention of any government body in trade unions and labor federations, due to the clear conflict of interest between them.

The guidelines also include an entire section on promoting religious activities in all Histadrut institutions, which had been included in Ram's platform to accommodate Shas.

Earlier yesterday, Ram signed a coalition agreement with the Joint Jewish and Arab List, which for the first time in the Histadrut's 73 years will be a part of the leadership. The leader of the Joint List, Binyamin Gonen, will be a member of the executive bureau and hold a senior position in the trade union section.

At the JL's insistence, two clauses were included in the coalition agreement between the three partners Ram, Labor and JL, committing the Histadrut to setting up labor councils in the Arab sector and to opposing the privatization of government corporations.

Ramon to cancel terms for top Histadrut retirees

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MK Haim Ramon, who as of this evening will be the Histadrut's new secretary-general, said yesterday that as soon as he takes office he may cancel the cozy retirement programs recently approved for a number of senior Histadrut officials.

Ramon said he would "freeze" pension agreements with preferred terms made after the May 10 Histadrut elections, and that the new leadership would examine them carefully.

Ramon was referring to the special retirement benefits the Histadrut's administration committee approved for outgoing Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld and seven other senior Histadrut officials.

The head of the Histadrut's administration and human resources section, Meir Gatt, who approved the preferred agreements, said these are routine retirement conditions for elected Histadrut officials, as enumerated in the Histadrut constitution.

The officials who recently joined the preferred retirement plan include, in addition to Haberfeld: Gatt, Histadrut Treasurer Arthur Yisraelovitz, the chairman of the legal and labor courts section Giora Eini, the engineers union secretary Yitzhak Raz, the head of the academics union, Ya'acov Unikovsky, the print workers union head Meir Goldstein and seamen's union leader Shlomo Avitan.

The constitution provides for enhanced retirement plans for senior workers who retire or are forced to retire for political reasons, such as a change of power in the Histadrut. However, now that these enhanced plans have been publicized, the representatives of the Histadrut's own staffers workers are demanding that all workers get the same conditions.

Haberfeld intends to vacate his bureau on the fifth floor of Histadrut headquarters on Arlosoroff Street tonight, and to move to the fourth floor, into the office of the chairman of the trade union section tomorrow morning. Haberfeld held the position of trade union section chairman in addition to that of secretary-general, and will continue to hold the lesser post until his replacement is chosen.

Americans celebrate July 4th at AACI picnics

A great for for people 'who like hanging out with Americans'

HAIM SHAPIRO

THERE were no fireworks, but the aroma of kosher hot dogs and hamburgers filled the air yesterday as several hundred Americans gathered in Jerusalem's Sacher Park to celebrate American Independence Day.

The festivities were sponsored by the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI).

Reading a message sent by the US consul in Jerusalem, consular representative Catherine Riley told those in the park that their presence was symbolic of "the great friend-

ship of America and Israel over five decades."

The local branch of the Jewish War Veterans of America presented the colors, the American and Israeli flags.

It was the eighth annual Jerusalem AACI picnic, according to Ardie Geldman, one of the organizers. Jerusalem was not the only AACI branch which had a picnic, but theirs was the largest, he noted, adding that it not only attracted

Jerusalem residents, but also visitors from the US.

As a juggler showed his tricks, Gloria Kestenbaum, who immigrated 12 years ago, said she came to the picnic because, "I still have a little American blood in me."

Janet Halevi was at the picnic with her husband, Rabbi Levi Halevi.

"We're here because we like to hang out with Americans," she said.

Also enjoying the picnic was 15-year-old Bracha Kometz, a cerebral palsy patient who attended in her wheelchair.

"I relate to America because my mother and father are American and I lived in Washington for a month. I'm half American, but I'm more Israeli," she said.

Her aunt, Lea Bar-Zev, who was at the picnic with three of her four children, said she was there to see people. But she added that she had very fond memories of July 4th as a former resident of Washington.

Labor, Yi'ud to resume talks on joining government

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR is due to resume its coalition talks with Yi'ud today in the hopes of broadening Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's coalition by the end of the Knesset's summer session this month.

Yi'ud leader MK Gonen Segev yesterday dismissed faction member MK Esther Salmovitz's statements demanding Rabin's commitment not to return to the 1967 borders or harm any Golan settlements as a condition for Yi'ud joining the coalition.

Segev said the faction has formulated a document which will be presented to Rabin as a basis for a coalition agreement, stating specifically that before signing any agreement involving territorial concessions, a public referendum would be held.

If and when Yi'ud joins the government, Gonen has been offered the energy portfolio. MK Alex Goldfarb the position of deputy minister and Salmovitz a senior Na'amat post.

Unemployment claims down again

Claims for unemployment insurance were down 7.4% last month, the National Insurance Institute reported yesterday. This represents a continuation of the downward trend in unemployment claims that has emerged so far this year. Some 67,400 people claimed unemployment payments in June, 7,000 less than in January.

During the first six months of the year, there were an average of 70,000 unemployment claims a month, down 20% from the same period last year.

Water slides provide kids a great treat

HAIM SHAPIRO

THEY may be noisy, crowded and expensive, but there seem to be few things that kids love more than a water park.

I have to admit that most of the water slides scare me to death. When I do find myself roped into taking the kids to one of these things, I equip myself with hat, sunglasses, a strong sun-screen cream and a good book.

If I do go into the water, it's in the regular pool, and since everyone else is so busy on the slides, the pool is usually quite empty.

The children, on the other hand, seem to love the chance to line up for 30 minutes or so, packed in with the sweaty bodies of their peers, for half a minute of cool bliss as they lunge down the slide into a pool.

Prices are high, especially if you are taking more than one or two children. On the other hand, special deals and reductions abound. Special discount tickets are often available from works committees, immigrant associations and communities.

Ask around before you set out. It is also worthwhile to call to make sure the park will be open when you want to go, as large groups sometimes take over the facilities.

The oldest and one of the best water parks remains the Luna Gal, on Lake Kinneret (Tel. 06-731750). The slides are big and steep and guaranteed to take your breath away.

Like most of the water parks, the Luna Gal has a kiddie area - a

large shallow pool with simple games where you can keep toddlers occupied while their older brothers and sisters go for the big stuff.

The hours are 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. until July 24, when it then remains open daily until midnight. The price is a stiff NIS 39 for anyone over age three, but there are special deals. For example, for NIS 69, visitors can have two days at the water park, sleep outside in a protected area and get two light meals.

One of the larger water parks in the Tel Aviv area is at Kibbutz Shefayim (09-523510), just north of Herzliya. Among the attractions here is a large wave pool, where you can stand and be buffeted by waves that are almost like those of the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean is free and it's the real thing, but don't bother telling the kids that. They'll just laugh at you.

The Shefayim water park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission for anyone over four is NIS 38, but groups of four and more get a discount of 20 percent. Also in the Tel Aviv area is the Meimadim (03-642277), a large water park near the Yarkon Park. Although it has extensive facilities, this water park seems to suffer from the usual problem of such facilities when they are near a large city - overcrowding.

The park is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Admission is NIS 38 for everyone over three.

Atrakzia (02-942391), the water park on the Dead Sea, is particularly attractive to Jerusalem residents, who can get there with a relatively short drive.

The park is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is free for anyone less than a meter in height

and NIS 39 for everyone else.

Askeluna (07-739970), on the beach at Ashkelon, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission for everyone over three is NIS 30.

The water park at Kibbutz Hafez Haim (06-593888), which appeals to the Orthodox and haredi public, has separate hours for men and women.

On Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, the women's hours are from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 4 a.m. to 7 p.m., while the men may use the facilities from 12.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. On Monday and Wednesday, the hours are reversed. Here admission is NIS 28 for everyone over three.

2 performances only
Rare treat for theater lovers

Brecht in Exile

Haifa Municipal Theatre, July 18, 19, 8:30 p.m.

with
Vanessa Redgrave (England)
Ekkehard Schall (Germany)
Rade Serbedzija (Croatia)

Arranged by: Gonen Stefanovski and Associates
Director: Lenka Udovicki
Musical director and piano accompaniment: Dominic Auld
Special advisor: Barbara Brecht-Schall

The three actors present some of the best work of Berthold Brecht - excerpts from his plays. The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, The Jewish Wife, Die Gesichte der Simone Machard, from Galileo Galilei, Legend of the Dead Soldier, and from his poems and songs.

Only two performances in Haifa. Dialogue mainly in English.
Buses to the theatre will leave from Tel Aviv North railway station, two hours before performances, and from Binyanei Ha'uma, Jerusalem, three hours before performances.
Tickets at the box office, Tel: 04-620670, and agencies.
Special discount for subscribers of the Haifa Theatre, Habimah, the Cameri Theatre, Beit Lessin, and the Beersheba Theatre.
The actors are staying at the Dan Carmel.
Special discount on tickets bought by Visa.

Haifa Theatre uses Visa.

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July 31 - Aug. 4	(four nights)	NIS 899
August 4 - 7	(three nights)	NIS 670
August 7 - 11	(four nights)	NIS 899
August 11 - 14	(three nights)	NIS 670

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